

NHIC Manifesto 2017-22

Representing organisations working together to improve the quality of existing homes in the UK



The next UK Government faces challenges over and above negotiating Britain's departure from the European Union. There are domestic challenges which also require strong and stable leadership.

Great Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, yet 4.5 million families live in fuel poverty.

The National Home Improvement Council (NHIC) believes that no British family should live in a cold, damp home and households should not have to make heat or eat choices each winter.

The NHIC wants all political parties to set out their proposals about how they will overcome some of the fundamental challenges currently faced; including how they will tackle not only the need to build more quality energy efficient homes, but also to improve the quality of our existing stock.

The NHIC urges Government to:

1) Work with us

To stimulate public awareness of the need to improve the existing housing stock in the UK, through the use of compliant and legal products, not least to reduce carbon emissions as part of the action needed as a result of climate change.

2) Take further measures

To improve the quality, safety and affordability of building work through, for example, strengthening Building Regulations and reducing VAT on housing renovation and repair work from 20% to 5%.

3) Ensure the UK has sufficient skilled workers

To deliver quality both now and after we have left the European Community, through increasing the quality, duration and attractiveness of apprenticeships and associated vocational training alongside the introduction of a flexible immigration policy for strategic industries.

4) Reduce the number of households living in Fuel Poverty

Building on previous Government measures such as the Energy Company Obligation to reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty, through the introduction of additional financial support to those in need alongside ensuring that any Government investment in reducing energy bills is targeted at improving the energy efficiency of the UK's homes adopting and evidenced based, fabric first approach.

5) Confirm that

The measures enacted to prevent energy inefficient homes being rented out after April 2018 will still take place.

The National Home Improvement Council, established in 1974, is a member based organisation whose primary aim is to encourage the safe and efficient refurbishment of the UK's existing homes across the private and social sectors to improve living standards and reduce fuel poverty.

We use expertise from across our membership to bring about positive change for UK Homes and we would very much like to work with Government to address these important issues.

Please visit www.nhic.org.uk or find us on social media @TheNHIC