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**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Reaction from Energy Action Scotland to increase of £20 million in the Scottish Government's budget for energy efficiency**

Commenting on today's (4 Feb) announcement by the Scottish Government that the budget for energy efficiency is to increase by £20 million, Norman Kerr, Director of national fuel poverty charity, Energy Action Scotland said:

"Given the recent increase in the number of households in fuel poverty in Scotland, it is good news that the budget to tackle the problem is being increased.

"It is known that making homes more energy efficient does help to reduce the amount of energy people need to use and in turn means their fuel bills can be less. The extra funding being made available by the Scottish Government will therefore boost the efforts already underway to achieve this.

"Many groups working to bring an end to fuel poverty in Scotland will no doubt welcome this move and will hope that it is an indication that the Scottish Government is willing to listen and react to the needs of the fuel poor."

**Ends**

**For further information contact:**

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**Background information:**

1. Energy Action Scotland is the national charity which campaigns to end fuel poverty and works to promote warm, dry homes for all. **Website:** [www.eas.org.uk](http://www.eas.org.uk)
2. There are currently around 900,000 households in fuel poverty in Scotland, ie about 40%.