

14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## **Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM) State of the Nation Report on fuel poverty – ‘Out in the Cold’**

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) launches its inaugural report on fuel poverty, in the Jubilee Room off Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster. The report, entitled ‘Out in the Cold’ presents a number of recommendations that the Institution believes will safeguard the most vulnerable members of society from fuel poverty.

Having considered many of the Government’s current initiatives designed to tackle fuel poverty, the Institution is advocating that the planned phasing out of the ‘Warm Front’ scheme by 2013 be deferred until such time as the new Energy Companies Obligation initiative, (announced in the Energy Act 2011) demonstrates that it is targeted at those who really need support.

The Warm Front scheme, run in England, offers vulnerable households full or part funding for a range of energy efficiency measures. The Energy and Climate Change Committee has found ‘Warm Front’ to have been effective in improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households and thereby reducing fuel bills.

*“As the scheme’s entire customer base are classed as ‘vulnerable’ there is significant incentive to continue the scheme”* said IGEM CEO Dr Claire Curtis-Thomas.

As well as the continuation of ‘Warm Front’ IGEM’s recommendation include; increases in Winter Fuel Payments for those living in the coldest parts of the UK, extension of the Winter Fuel Payment scheme to cover vulnerable groups other than the elderly and review of the energy tariffs available to customers on pre-payment meters.

Ends

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **State of the Nation Report on Fuel Poverty**

The Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM) State of the Nation Report on fuel poverty – ‘Out in the Cold’ is launched on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in the Jubilee Room off Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster between 1pm and 3pm.

Speeches commence at 1.30pm and will be delivered by; IGEM Chief Executive Dr Claire Curtis-Thomas CEng CIGEM FIMechE FIET FCGI FRSA (former member of Parliament 1997 – 2010) and Barry Sheerman MP for Huddersfield, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group and Secretary of the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group.

### **Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)**

IGEM is a learned Institution and a Chartered professional body established in 1863 and licensed by the Engineering Council. The Institution provides, through its independent technical panels, definitive process standards which are used throughout the gas sector globally.

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