

Scottish Rural Fuel Poverty Task Force

Short feedback report from Orkney contractors – PAS2030 workshop

1. Short Description of issue

Following the successful delivery of the final Universal Home Insulation Scheme 2012/13, retrofit activity throughout Orkney has stalled.

Until October 2014, there had been no local accredited installers to deliver grant-assisted home improvements, nor accredited firms from mainland Scotland willing to service householder requests for quotations.

The industry recognised standard for energy efficiency measures is the Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2030 from the British Standards Institute. The specification covers both quality management systems (QMS) and competency requirements (skills).

As of 25 September 2015, there are only three local PAS2030 installers (1 covering insulation measures).

- There are not enough local PAS2030 insulation installers available to meet current demand
- Competition should reduce pricing and deliver better value for the consumer
- Rural householders receive the same marketing for several national grant schemes, but their supply chain is broken and they cannot progress applications

2. Analysis of the root cause of the issue

- The size of Orkney businesses (typically micro-sized)
- The chicken and egg dilemma they face: they won't invest in training and certification until they have access to the opportunities but to access the opportunities they need the training and certification.
- Many installers have to be convinced of the business case to invest in training and certification. There are also concerns about unnecessary paperwork and admin and the longevity of government schemes. With no guarantee of work

3. Evidence

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) with funding from the Scottish Government commissioned research covering the remote rural and island supply chains. This report identified the characteristics of the supply chain in these areas, the barriers facing businesses along with recommendations.

[Distributed to the Group by Elsie, 7 Oct 15]

4. PAS2030 Workshops, Kirkwall, 25-26 August 2015

The (EST), in partnership with the Energy Skills Partnership (linked with Scottish Colleges) and utilising funding from Skills Development Scotland, delivered two training days to help local installers become PAS2030.

The focus was on developing quality management systems with 12 companies taking part.

Subsequently, 10 companies have signed up for additional mentoring and have agreed to become PAS2030 certified within six months.

	EWI	IWI	Loft	Underfloor	Glazing and doors	Storage heating	Lighting
No. of companies	3	7	6	6	1	1	1

Figure 1. Breakdown of measures the ten Orkney companies want certified for

In addition, the EST identified three certification bodies for the firms to consider. These certification bodies are currently carrying out skills gap-analysis for these companies. Any gaps or weaknesses identified will be acted upon through discussions with the Energy Skills Partnership and Orkney Islands Council.

5. Ongoing items and future actions

- Finalising local competency courses for relevant skills/measures
- Clarifying available products from trade suppliers and insulation manufacturers
- Identifying potential for a test centre for ongoing training and certification
- Marketing current opportunities and contacts (e.g. HEEPS: ABS, Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme, approved contractor frameworks within public sector agencies)
- A further training event / workshop in November 2015, to provide firms with the skills and tools to bid for energy efficiency contracts in the public sector.