

Oil Installer

News and views from an evolving heating world



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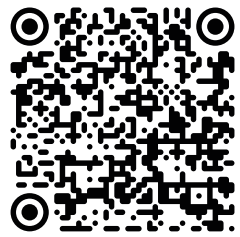
Summer 2026 Volume 20 No 2

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CEO's Foreword

When you're in a hole, stop digging

The old saying "when you're in a hole, stop digging" came to mind when I heard DESNZ's latest bright idea to boost the number of heat pump installations. The announcement claimed that to help households hit by rising heating oil and LPG prices, the Government would increase Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) grants to £9,000. While heat pump installers will welcome any additional business it generates, it's clear the Government is being disingenuous about the true purpose of the increase.

The average cost of a BUS funded heat pump installation is over £13,000 and is likely to be higher still for typical oil-heated homes. So, if you're already struggling to pay for heating oil, are you really going to have the cash to buy a heat pump, even with a generous grant? Given this year's BUS budget is again underspent, the real aim is clearly to install more heat pumps. And if the grants will mainly go to households with high disposable incomes that don't need help with their bills, then DESNZ will no doubt conclude that's a price worth paying to tick a box.

However, regardless of whether this level of subsidy is sensible or sustainable, it's evidence that the Government is still determined to impose its electrification agenda on rural homes and businesses, regardless of their wishes. This is not without risk given nearly 16,000 people responded to its consultation to demand the option to use renewable liquid heat fuels. To ignore this demand for choice seems at best misguided, and at worst the act of policy arrogance.

We must hope that the recent visit by civil servants to Cornwall to meet participants in the HVO demonstration project – which two Labour MPs attended – will help to change DESNZ's thinking. With the cost-of-living squeeze impacting on household spending decisions, affordable and easy-to-implement decarbonisation options offer the best way to make progress – and keep voters happy.

Paul Rose,

Paul Rose,
OFTEC CEO



Paul Randall appointed new Inspection services manager



We are pleased to welcome Paul Randall to OFTEC as the newly appointed Inspection Services Manager.

Paul joined the team in May 2026 and will be leading our busy inspection services department, regularly travelling across the UK and Ireland to support our network of contracted regional inspectors.

Paul said: "Throughout my career I've had the opportunity to work with engineers, training centres, inspectors, assessors and technical teams across a wide range of sectors and experience levels. Those experiences have reinforced the importance of consistency, competence, standards and

professional integrity within our industry.

"I'm looking forward to working with the wider OFTEC team and inspectorate network, supporting continued professional standards and contributing positively to the future development of the sector."

Inspections are a fundamental part of the Government's Competent Person Scheme (CPS) and Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Paul plays a central role in ensuring our regional inspectors oversee compliance with these schemes, and that technicians' work in homes meets the required standards.

Changes to Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) come into effect

As part of the Government's aim of accelerating the deployment of low-carbon heating, and following a consultation and Parliamentary approval, changes to the Boiler Upgrade Scheme came into force on 28 April 2026. The changes focus on expanding eligibility, improving flexibility for installers, and strengthening consumer protections.

Expanded technology eligibility

- Air-to-air heat pumps will become eligible for a £2,500 grant in domestic properties.
- Heat pumps may be installed alongside non-fossil fuel supplementary heating appliances as part of multi-technology installations.

Upfront grant deduction

- Installers must deduct the grant value as an upfront discount to the installation cost and provide the property owner with a quote showing the cost before and after the grant is applied.
- To remain compliant with BUS requirements, installers must

not request or accept payment of the deducted grant amount.

Consumer protection and certification

- Updates to align with MCS redeveloped installer scheme.

Updated EPC requirements

- Properties no longer need a valid EPC to apply for BUS.
- Installers must provide alternative evidence, such as a recent utility bill and photos of the existing heating system.
- Where a valid EPC exists, it must still be submitted.

Updated BUS guidance (version 5) has been published and can be found on the Ofgem website.

With the expansion of eligible technologies under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, it's important to note that installers must have MCS certification for each of the low-carbon technologies they plan to apply for and install. OFTEC offers MCS registration. For more information visit www.oftec.org/technicians/areas-of-registration/mcs-registration/

Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants increased for oil and LPG users

The grant increases are welcome news for heat pump installers, but OFTEC recommends that households think carefully before making the switch

In April, DENZ, announced a temporary increase in Boiler Upgrade Scheme funding to £9,000 for properties heated by oil and LPG in England and Wales. The change, due this summer, brings the funding available into line with Scotland.

OFTEC responded positively to the announcement, but noted that even with this additional funding, oil-heated households will still face a significant financial shortfall. The Government's own estimates suggest the switching cost at nearly £20,000 for larger off-grid homes.

The trade association also cautioned householders to think carefully before making the switch because Building Regulations prevent owners switching back to a boiler if the heat pump installation fails to perform as expected or results in high running costs in the long term.

Paul Rose, OFTEC CEO, explains: "Building Regulations in England prohibit installing a heating appliance with the potential to produce more CO₂ than the appliance being replaced. That means if the heat pump turns out not to be suitable, households will not have an option to return to a boiler of any sort.

"However, most households either can't afford the upfront cost of a heat pump, or are not ready to make the switch, but they shouldn't have to stay on kerosene. The Government needs to support a wider range of low-carbon technologies, and renewable liquid fuels like HVO must be part of the mix. There is a clear public appetite for this

approach, demonstrated by 16,000 oil-heated households responding to the Government's recent consultation in support of these fuels. We now need to see a formal government response which incorporates these fuels into the wider decarbonisation strategy."

Martyn Bridges, Director of External Affairs at Worcester Bosch, added: "We believe this is really good for a number of oil and LPG users in the UK.

"There are a few reasons why we've seen this announcement today. First, it is driven by the volatility of oil prices since the crisis in the Middle East, which has seen domestic heating oil prices double.

"Secondly, it is also likely down to the estimated underspend (as of 31 March) of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) of around £65m, which signals that growth in retrofit heat pumps is starting to flatline and further action is required to make this government policy look like it's succeeding.

"While finance is a big motivator, I think it's not the only factor in people's reluctance to change from a boiler system to a heat pump system. There are many thousands of homes with an externally sited oil-fired combination boiler, and whilst a heat pump sits outside the property, the required hot water storage cylinder is mostly installed inside, where space is precious - meaning it's not a good fit for households that simply don't have the internal room to spare."

OFTEC's rollout of the redeveloped MCS installer scheme, a turning point for renewable installers

The UK's transition to low-carbon heating and power is accelerating, and with it comes a significant improvement in how installers are certified. With OFTEC now offering access to the redeveloped Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) installer framework, businesses across the heating and renewables sector are facing a pivotal moment.

The redeveloped scheme is designed to remove bottlenecks while improving real-world outcomes. Rather than focusing heavily on documentation and internal processes, the new model shifts attention to what truly matters: the quality and performance of installations in customers' homes.

What it means for businesses certified with MCS through OFTEC

For installers working with OFTEC, the organisation's involvement in delivering the new scheme provides a familiar route into MCS certification.

The implications are clear:

- Reduced administrative overhead for businesses that already operate to a high standard.
- Greater competitive differentiation, as quality becomes more visible and measurable.
- Continued access to government-backed incentives, where MCS certification remains a prerequisite.
- A need to adapt, particularly in terms of staffing, training, and internal accountability.

Perhaps most importantly, the changes raise the bar across the sector. Businesses that fail to evolve risk falling behind - not just in compliance, but in reputation.

You can find out more about these changes here.
www.oftec.org/technicians/areas-of-registration/mcs-registration/

£9,000 heat pump grants for oil-heated homes: what it means for installers

The Government has announced that Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants for homes heated by oil or LPG will rise to £9,000, up from the previous £7,500 level. The move is another clear signal that off-grid heating policy is climbing the agenda, with ministers using higher incentives to encourage electrification in rural and oil-heated homes.

Just as importantly, the higher grant recognises that many rural off-grid homes face different challenges to urban properties on the gas grid. Older buildings, harder-to-treat homes, insulation costs, limited installer availability and higher upgrade costs can all make switching systems more complex. A larger, fuel-specific grant is an acknowledgement that a one-size-fits-all approach does not always work.

Industry response

Trade bodies OFTEC and UKIFDA have long argued that rural households need practical, consumer-friendly pathways to decarbonisation. Both organisations have consistently highlighted the importance of choice, affordability and recognising the realities of off-grid homes, where heating decisions can be more expensive and more complicated than standard policy models sometimes assume.

More customer conversations are coming

Higher grants reduce the upfront cost barrier for households that may previously have ruled out a heat pump. That means installers working in oil-heated homes are likely to face more customer questions such as:

- Should I replace my boiler or switch systems?
- Am I eligible for the £9,000 grant?
- Will a heat pump work in my property?
- Should I upgrade now or wait?

Trusted local engineers are often the first person customers ask.

Is it enough?

While a £9,000 grant will improve the economics for some households, upfront costs are only part of the picture. For many off-grid homes, property suitability, radiator upgrades, hot water cylinder changes, insulation works and electricity supply upgrades may still influence decision-making.

Running costs also remain part of the debate, with analysts continuing to point to the relatively high cost of electricity compared with gas in the UK.

That means the success of the increase in influencing heat pump uptake may depend not only on grant levels, but also on future electricity pricing reform, practical installation routes and the range of solutions made available to consumers.

“Increased incentives for electrification may mean that, for oil heating professionals, the strongest position may be to combine today’s oil expertise with tomorrow’s skills.”

Without this consideration, UKIFDA and OFTEC suggest that “Unfortunately, it will therefore often be wealthier households who will most benefit from this increase in grant funding.”

Call for technology choice

OFTEC and UKIFDA said they want to see a broader range of lower-carbon options available enabling households to choose solutions according to their circumstances.

They argued that some households may need lower-cost transition routes that avoid the significant upfront costs associated with heat pumps, particularly where full electrification is not immediately practical.

Calling for the inclusion of renewable liquid fuels, such as HVO, they pointed to strong public engagement with the Government’s recent consultation on alternative clean heating solutions for off-grid homes.

Existing skills still matter

Many of the core skills in heating – system design, controls, fault-finding, commissioning and customer advice – remain valuable across both oil and renewable technologies. For technicians considering future-proofing their business, this strengthens the case for adding heat pump capability alongside existing oil expertise.

Oil servicing and replacement work will continue

This is not an overnight switch. Millions of homes still rely on liquid fuel heating, and many properties may remain better suited to upgraded oil systems, hybrid solutions or a later transition timetable. Maintenance, breakdown and replacement demand will continue for years.

Opportunity for tank installers and oil specialists

Professionals already working in off-grid homes understand rural properties, older housing stock, customer budgets and real-world heating

needs. That knowledge is highly transferable when advising on broader heating options.

Practical takeaway

The direction of travel is clear: government support is increasingly favouring low-carbon heating. But the grant uplift also recognises that rural transition is harder and may need extra help. For oil heating professionals, the strongest position may be to combine today’s oil expertise with tomorrow’s skills – so you can help customers whichever route they choose.



The global energy crisis – what you need to know

The American and Israeli attacks on Iran and Lebanon have sent markets around the world into turmoil and triggered significant energy price rises. Heating oil has been particularly badly affected. Here we explore why that has happened, what it means for our industry, and what advice you need to give your customers.

Why has heating oil been so badly affected?

Heating oil is more prone to sudden price fluctuations than other fuels because fuel distributors often have limited storage capacity, making them vulnerable to sudden wholesale fuel price changes. Heating oil is very similar to jet fuel and because of limited refinery capacity in Europe, a relatively high proportion of this fuel comes from the Gulf States, so the price has risen more than crude oil.

What's the impact on customers?

Anyone needing to buy fuel since the start of the conflict will have seen significant price rises to over £1.00 per litre. However, less fuel is used during the summer and, because users have their own fuel storage, most have at least some protection from the price increases.

How long the crisis will last is impossible to predict, but it may continue for some months, and potentially into the next heating season. Even if the conflict has stopped, the knock-on effects will mean that prices are likely to be higher next winter than last year.

What is the Government doing?

The UK Government has announced over £50 million in support for vulnerable oil heated households, through a new Crisis Resilience Fund, which came into effect in April. £17 million has been allocated to Northern Ireland, England will receive £27 million, Scotland £4.6 million and Wales £3.8 million. The Scottish Government has topped up its fund to £10 million. Each country is distributing the funding differently, so look out for announcements specific to your location.

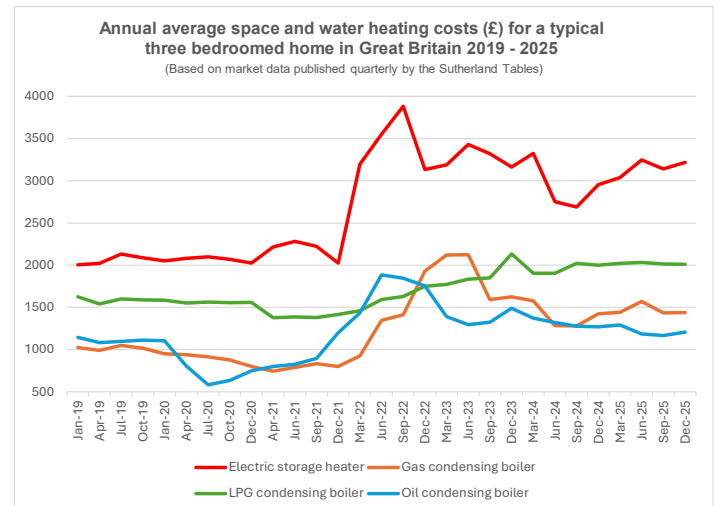
When should households buy oil?

Many will wish to wait in the hope that prices will fall. If your customers still have some fuel, it may make sense to wait until prices are potentially more favourable. However, the advice from fuel distributors, UKIFDA, is not to wait until the last moment when the tank is almost empty before re-ordering. It's also worth remembering that as the new heating season approaches, demand will increase and prices could rise. If your customers do need to refill, then the best advice is to shop around for the best deal. Many fuel distributors also offer priority schemes to help vulnerable customers.

Is heating oil usually more expensive than other options?

It's often assumed that heating oil is always an expensive fuel. However, the graph below, which shows the annual average cost of heating fuels, calculated quarterly for a typical three bedroomed home, demonstrates this is incorrect. It is the age and method of construction of rural

homes - which limits their energy efficiency - that largely accounts for the higher running costs oil heating customers sometimes face.



Why compliance matters in today's heating industry

At OFTEC, compliance is more than a requirement - it underpins everything we do. As the heating industry evolves through new technologies, fuels, and regulatory change, we remain focused on upholding the highest standards of safety, competence, and environmental responsibility.

Our role is to support and protect both consumers and registered businesses by ensuring that all technicians operating under the OFTEC scheme meet these standards consistently. While the vast majority do, each quarter a

small number of companies are suspended or have their registration withdrawn. This may occur for a variety of reasons and means they are no longer entitled to present themselves as OFTEC registered.

Maintaining robust compliance safeguards the integrity of the scheme and reinforces trust in the OFTEC name across the industry.

Revoked businesses between 22 December 2025 – 31 March 2026 (6 businesses).

The revoked businesses are:

Company No.	Business Name
100704	AHM Plumbing and Heating Ltd
8627	B C Roberts Plumbing and Heating
104543	Dan Carvell Plumbing
13233	Dylan Roberts
503180	HES Plumbing and Electrical LTD
500573	Llyr Davies Plumbing and Heating

InstallerSHOW is fast approaching



InstallerSHOW 2026 is once again set to bring together the very best of the heat, water, and energy sectors at the NEC Birmingham. Taking place from 23 to 25 June, the event is expected to attract tens of thousands of professionals and over 900 exhibitors, making it one of the most important dates in the industry calendar.

Among those exhibiting will be OFTEC and we'll be welcoming visitors to stand 5G12. Visitors to the stand can learn more about OFTEC's registration options, speak to our technical staff, and discuss the latest developments in the roll out of low carbon heating solutions for buildings off the gas grid. With

an increasing focus on ensuring consumers can have confidence in a renewable heating installation, OFTEC continues to play a key role in helping installers navigate the changes to our industry with confidence.

Tickets are free, but you'll need to register in advance. Secure yours here:

www.installershow.com

Planning to visit? Stop by stand 5G12, come and say hi to the OFTEC team and discover our show offers.

Building confidence in the UK's heat pump workforce by starting at home

The shift to low-carbon heating is one of the UK's most urgent and complex challenges, and it is increasingly being driven by collaboration across the industry. Organisations are coming together not just to set targets, but to actively enable the workforce needed to deliver them.

One example is the Nesta Start at Home initiative, a program designed to give heating technicians the practical, hands-on experience required to install heat pumps with confidence.

As a leading registration body of heating technicians, particularly those working with oil and renewable technologies, OFTEC can play a significant role in supporting this workforce transition. With the UK needing tens of thousands of additional skilled installers to meet the expected future heat pump targets, the challenge is not just training technicians but ensuring they feel confident entering the market.

One key issue is that many qualified technicians hesitate to take on heat pump installations due to a lack of real-world experience. The Start at Home initiative directly addresses

this gap by:

- Providing genuine, hands-on heat pump installation experience, usually within a technician's own home.
- Removing financial barriers through funded equipment.
- Accelerating technicians' confidence and entry into the heat pump market.

According to a Nesta survey, after taking part in the Start at Home scheme technicians in the project reported **increased confidence in heat pumps**, especially those who installed one in their own home.

By supporting initiatives like Start at Home, OFTEC is helping to overcome one of the most significant obstacles in the transition to low-carbon heating, the fear of that crucial first installation.

Find out more here <https://www.startathome.org.uk/>

Renewable Heating Obligation (RHO)

The introduction of a renewable heating obligation in the Republic of Ireland will be a significant milestone. Legislation is due to be introduced in 2026, with a possible commencement of the scheme in 2027. The RHO will herald a major departure in decarbonising home heating through obliging fuel suppliers to ensure that a proportion of their product is renewable. This is a great opportunity for the liquid fuel sector, currently providing home heating oil for over 700,000 homes in the Republic of Ireland, representing over 40% of the heating market. It sends a clear signal at home and abroad that a single choice policy of heat pumps (electrification) cannot deliver on climate change targets alone.

It has been widely reported that the Republic is failing miserably at its own targets for heat pump installs and retrofits. To repeat, the Climate Action plan targets 500,000 residential retrofits and the deployment of 400,000 heat pumps, plus the delivery of up to 2.7 terawatt hours of district heating capacity by 2030.

According to the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) they claim the 'State' was "materially off-track" on all three targets.

By the end of 2024, the report noted that deep retrofits reached 57,932 (11.5 per cent of the target) while heat pump installations were estimated at 14,194 (3.5 per cent of the target).

The main barrier driving this under delivery is cost. Using data from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the report noted the median (middle value) cost of a deep energy retrofit ranges from €22,914 for an apartment to €66,503 for a detached house, with the portion of the cost covered by the homeowner ranging from €16,378 to €42,900.

These figures do not stand up to scrutiny in the current economic climate. People are not prepared (or able) to pay such large sums, and many have started querying the payback.

At the time of writing this article the

Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment (DCEE) has advised us (TAZCH) that elements of the RHO which incentivise the domestic production of biomethane have been blocked by the European Commission following a scrutiny process. The Commission has found that the proposals are anti-competitive and must be reviewed by the Government. Although this does not relate to liquid fuel, it is nonetheless a significant setback for the scheme. Despite this, civil servants are saying that 'it's business as usual' and the legislation is proceeding as per their timeline of publication before the end of the summer Oireachtas term. By any measure, this seems to be a highly optimistic aspiration.

Given 'favouritism' to indigenous biomethane (their proposal in the RHO was to give biomethane a 1.5 multiplier) was never going to go down well with other EU states – biomethane from other EU countries imported and used locally would just as easily contribute to reducing carbon emissions!

In the light of this decision by the EU, there is now an opportunity to look again at the proposed scheme and adjust it to ensure it is fit for purpose to reduce carbon emissions in the home heating sector.

We have already argued that the low blend obligation at the start (1.5%) will not drive meaningful additional blending to the liquid fuel market and the initial costs to meet this obligation do not stand up to scrutiny. Our sector can deliver a 20% blend of low carbon liquid fuel. For the scheme to operate effectively, a minimum obligation rate of 5% must be introduced.

Otherwise from a liquid fuel perspective, the RHO will see no additional renewable fuels introduced, no decrease in carbon emissions and an increase in costs to consumers due to compliance costs.

Our sector has always argued that in its present form the proposed RHO is not an effective way to decarbonise and we need to come up with a scheme that is workable for all and

delivers genuine environmental benefits at a proportionate cost. We have suggested to the Minister and his civil servants that, given the recent EU decision, they should remove liquid fuels from the RHO and merge it with the transport sector to create a single Renewable Liquid Fuel Obligation Scheme.

We believe that this can be done by updating the existing Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation Scheme (RTFO). This would be a relatively straightforward way of allowing the liquid fuel sector to deliver significantly higher levels of renewable fuel such as HVO, while the gas sector could proceed at the levels current capacity will allow.

TAZCH is pushing hard for a revision to the RHO with a particular emphasis on bringing our message to politicians across all parties. We are hopeful that sense will be seen, and a revised format is agreed that includes a definitive road map for an increasing scale of blend that gives importers confidence rather than just nominal compliance.

David Blevings, Manager, OFTEC Ireland



Deputy Naoise O'Muirí TD (Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment) and Philip Hannon (TAZCH)

OFTEC attended BEPEX show in Limerick

OFTEC attended the BEPEX trade event in Limerick, welcoming both registered and non-registered technicians to the stand. BEPEX is a key industry event for plumbing, heating and electrical professionals across Ireland.

The show was well attended, with many oil heating technicians valuing the opportunity to speak face to face with OFTEC.

As the Republic of Ireland does not currently operate a Competent Persons Scheme, it was useful



to hear directly from technicians about barriers to registration and perceived benefits. Many noted that local authorities require CD11 documentation for public sector servicing, while landlord certificates are often requested for rented properties. This is encouraging and presents an opportunity for OFTEC to work with other local authorities to help raise installation standards.

Some concerns were raised around the cost of training, public liability insurance and essential equipment, such as analysers and test tools. These were highlighted as barriers to registration, particularly for newly qualified technicians. OFTEC will review these issues and consider how best to address them.

Feedback on OFTEC training and the field guide was very positive, with many describing it as 'an indispensable on-site resource'. Support from the local inspector, Sean McBride, and the Ipswich office was

also praised.

Several OFTEC-registered companies, including Grant, Firebird, KANE, METAC and Warmflow, were also present. Despite rising oil prices following the Iran conflict, there was clear optimism around the future of liquid fuels. Boiler manufacturers reported seeing an increase in orders, perhaps unexpectedly, but noted that higher fuel costs are prompting upgrades to modern condensing boilers. According to Sutherland Tables, these can reduce annual heating costs by up to 28%!

Following the success of the Limerick event, BEPEX will return in Dublin later this year, taking place on Wednesday 9 September (4:00pm–9:00pm) and Thursday 10 September (9:30am–4:00pm), offering another opportunity for industry professionals to attend. OFTEC will be there, and we welcome you to come and visit the stand.

www.bepex.ie/bepex_dublin2026

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Future Ready Fuel campaign – summer update



Residents from Kehelland, Cornwall, with local MPs Perran Moon and Jayne Kirkham, Ken Cronin from UKIFDA, and John and Robert Weedon from Mitchell and Webber following a meeting with DESNZ civil servants.

The extraordinary public response to the Government's consultation on alternative low-carbon heating solutions, produced almost 16,000 supportive responses for the introduction of renewable liquid heating fuels. This was a huge win for the Future Ready Fuel campaign. The Government has not yet responded to the consultation, but it's hoped that the level of support will persuade it to take the policy steps needed to introduce a 20% blend of HVO very quickly.

In a positive development, fuel suppliers Michell and Webber hosted officials from DESNZ, who met residents from Kehelland in Cornwall to find out more about the HVO demonstration project and hear firsthand their views about decarbonising rural off-gas grid buildings. It's extremely unusual for civil servants to meet ordinary citizens in this way and can be seen as a positive development, directly linked to the consultation response.

However, the official stance of DESNZ remains focussed on electrification. OFTEC and HHIC recently sent the DESNZ Minister Martin McCluskey a joint letter, making the case for hybrid systems and renewable liquid fuels. In his reply, the Minister stated that:

Regarding heat pump use and building suitability: "We expect most properties, including those off the gas grid, will ultimately switch to standalone heat pumps as these are a proven technology and have been installed in high numbers in other countries. However, we recognise that for a small number of homes, a standalone heat pump may not be feasible."

Regarding technologies and grant funding: "...the Government wants to direct the funding available towards the technologies that offer the greatest carbon savings and a complete transition for the home in

question, rather than those which would continue to involve the burning of fossil fuels and leave further cost and disruption required subsequently."

Regarding the potential role of hybrid heat pumps with liquid biofuels: "If hybrid heat pumps are to play a long-term role in the decarbonisation of complex-to-decarbonise buildings off the gas grid, the fuel used by the boiler element must be net zero-consistent."

This suggests that the UK Government doesn't currently see off-grid buildings as an area needing special treatment, nor does it wish to consider options that offer anything other than a complete decarbonisation solution. It expects most existing oil heated households to adopt a heat pump, regardless of how expensive or disruptive it is, and irrespective of the views or preference of the owner.

While this does not appear to give much reason to be hopeful, we know from previous experience that the Government will stick with its official policy position right up until the point when it announces a change. It's unlikely that civil servants would have visited Kehelland without a good reason and the Government will certainly be well aware of the strength of feeling demonstrated by the consultation response. That means it will also understand the risk of alienating rural support if it doesn't change track.

Under normal circumstances we would be campaigning vigorously to push for this change. However, the current fuel crisis and the risk of negative publicity have led us to adopt a more low-key approach. OFTEC and UKIFDA are continuing to work behind the scenes, engaging with rural MPs and civil servants to push the case for renewable liquid heating fuels. Many MPs have been supportive, and we think there's still good reason to be cautiously optimistic.

Thousands of tradespeople may be under-insured for tool theft

With theft reaching 'epidemic' levels, many tradespeople are left exposed – costing the industry millions each year.

Insurance specialist Barry Marsh of Trade Direct Insurance warns that many workers either lack adequate cover or misunderstand the protection they have in place, leaving them unable to recover financially after a theft. Beyond the immediate loss, stolen tools can halt work for days and carry lasting psychological impacts.

Marsh says underinsurance is widespread: "We often find tradespeople don't have sufficient cover for their tools – and in some cases, no protection at all. Insurance is easy to overlook, and some reduce cover to cut costs, while unclear policy terms can add further confusion."

He urges professionals to review three critical areas of their cover.

First is tool valuation, as many underestimate the true worth of equipment accumulated over years. Keeping an inventory, supported by receipts or timestamped photos, can help ensure accurate cover.

Second is location. Policies may include conditions on where vehicles are parked, whether tools must be removed overnight, or if items are insured away from home – details that can invalidate claims if ignored.

Finally, tradespeople should check time restrictions. Some insurers exclude overnight cover, despite this being when theft risk is highest.

With theft on the rise, reviewing policy terms carefully is essential to avoid costly gaps in protection.

If you want to review your insurance you can find out more about Trade Direct Insurance, visit: www.tradedirectinsurance.co.uk/

Grant launches upgraded G1 Portal and Click app



Grant UK has updated its Portal and Click app platforms, which are exclusively available to members of the G1 Installer Scheme. The upgraded Portal and Click app have a fresh look, improved functionality and new features designed to support installers with their product registrations and make accessing scheme benefits easier than ever.

The G1 Portal is a dedicated web-based platform which members of the Scheme can log into to register Grant installations to activate their extended guarantees, access exclusive resources, and order brochures, merchandise and more. Meanwhile, G1 Click is a product registration app which makes registering installations onsite quick and easy.

Combining familiar features with improved functionality, installers can

now register multiple Grant products on a single registration. A new service reminder page is now part of the Portal, where G1 installers can view and manage all their Grant product service reminders.

Alongside its new features, the Portal stores product registration documentation for installers to access anytime; is home to a comprehensive shop where G1 members can order branded merchandise, brochures and redeem rewards; and has a handy downloads centre where installers can access and use exclusive resources and materials.

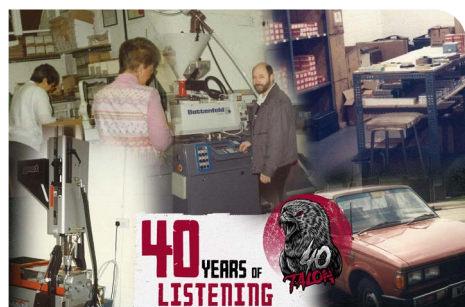
As with the main Portal, the G1 Click app has also been upgraded, incorporating the new multiple product registration functionality, an updated barcode scanner for reading the serial numbers for more Grant

products, and an improved offline mode for capturing product details onsite even when there is no WiFi or internet connection.

"The G1 Portal and Click platforms have been central to our G1 Installer Scheme for many years," comments Anna Wakefield, Head of Internal Sales and Marketing at Grant UK. "As our product portfolio has expanded and the G1 loyalty programme has evolved, it became clear that an upgraded Portal and supporting app were essential to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our scheme members.

"Installer feedback has been at the heart of these upgrades," continues Anna, "incorporating new features in line with installer requests and keeping the familiar elements of the Portal which members value."

Talon celebrates four decades of British manufacturing



Growing from its first simple pipe clip into a name recognised across the trade, Talon is celebrating 40 years of keeping pipework firmly in place. Founded in 1986, the company began with a simple idea. While out on the road selling pipe clips, founder Mike Dudney repeatedly heard the same issue from plumbers: after a cold weekend, pipes would often pop out of their clips, leading to wasted time and frustration on site.

Determined to improve what was already on the market, Dudney refined the hinged clip design, focusing on

stronger hinges and a more secure grip. Early samples quickly gained interest at trade shows, giving Talon its starting point. Additional sizes, spacers for lagging and improved nail-on clips were introduced next, each developed in response to everyday installation challenges. Listening to the trade has remained central to the company's approach.

From day one, Talon was proudly British made. The first clips were manufactured in Rochester and today production continues in Gillingham. The original logo, an osprey copied from an encyclopaedia, symbolised strength and precision. While the osprey may have since gone, it has not been forgotten and the claw remains – that distinctive edge to the 'T' in Talon, representing the brand's ultimate grip.

Momentum gathered and a thousand clips sold soon became 10,000. With manufacturing still in Kent, Talon's

wide range now includes boiler boxing and trunking, Snappit pipe covers and PipeSnug and FlueSnug for sealing pipe and flue penetrations in line with building regulations.

"Reaching 40 years is a fantastic milestone for us," says Mike Morris, Marketing Manager at Talon. "It all started with one small improvement to a pipe clip and has grown from there. We have always listened to what installers actually want. That mindset hasn't changed and it's what will keep pushing us forward."

Over four decades, Talon has built its reputation through steady development and attention to detail. By focusing on real problems and practical solutions, the company continues to support plumbers and merchants across the UK. In October 2025, Talon was acquired as part of Davidson Holdings by Genuit Group PLC, marking a new chapter in its 40-year story.

Celebrating 20 years of dedication at Fuel Storage Solutions

In an industry where the typical tenure for an engineer can be as little as 3-4 years, reaching two decades is an extraordinary achievement. This spring, Senior Engineer Stuart Burton, achieved 20 years of service at Fuel Storage Solutions (FSS), the UK's leading provider of fuel storage systems and solutions.

Joining the business as Field Engineer just four years after its launch, Stuart has contributed significantly to the exceptional growth experienced by FSS. He is known and warmly welcomed by customers across the UK. His expertise, dedication and professionalism have earned him tremendous respect among colleagues and clients alike as his knowledge of the fuel storage industry is second to none. Modest, self-effacing, and a true team player, Stuart is a man of few words and many actions.

He has a trademark style of delivery evidenced by his deep commitment to training, mentoring and supporting young engineers as they embark on their careers. He embraces

continual improvements in health and safety, education and compliance - cornerstones of the fuel industry. Above all, his 'can do' attitude means he is always the first to volunteer for overtime, regardless of the job or location.

Reflecting on the milestone, Stuart shared: "I remember when I started at FSS and how it was a major jump for me joining a business that was literally new. My early days were spent working with Jonathan Barnett, Managing Director, and I have fond memories of times spent together out on the road. I'm shocked about the 20 years' milestone and my absolute heartfelt thanks go to all of the directors in addition to Jonathan - Katharine Barnett, Finance Director, and Vince McCarry, Operations Director. Their support over the years, as well as that of the team, is remarkable. FSS is a true family business."

Commenting on behalf of FSS, Vince McCarry said: "I have always had great confidence in Stuart's knowledge, experience and capability. His pressure testing of fuel tanks is



Stuart Burton, Senior Engineer at Fuel Storage Solutions

legendary. There are very few people I've come across in my time in this industry with whom I've had (and continue to have) such an excellent working relationship. He hit retirement in July 2021 and chose to carry on working full time at FSS.

His motto in life – it's 'keeping going, that keeps you going'! We hope that Stuart will continue to do what he does so exceptionally well for many years to come."

FSS has invited Stuart to choose a substantial gift in recognition of his service.



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Warmflow Connect kicks off World Cup rewards campaign

Warmflow has launched an exciting World Cup-themed rewards promotion on its Connect platform, giving installers and traders the chance to claim football merchandise and win Sports Direct vouchers this summer.

The Northern Ireland-based heating manufacturer has added two limited-time rewards to Warmflow Connect – its trade customer loyalty platform.

Members can now redeem their points for a World Cup Shirt (1,000 points) or a World Cup Football (300 points), with both rewards available while stocks last.

Win a £100 Sports Direct voucher

Sweetening the deal further, Warmflow is running a prize draw alongside the rewards campaign. Any Connect member who claims a World Cup reward will be



automatically entered into a draw to win a £100 Sports Direct voucher. Two additional £50 Sports Direct vouchers are also up for grabs, giving members three chances to win.

The competition closes on 10 July 2026.

Navien UK to launch heat pump wiring centre alongside boiler portfolio at InstallerShow 2026



Navien will use InstallerSHOW 2026 to launch its new NAW3000 wiring centre, designed to simplify installation and maintenance of heat pump systems.

The electrical control hub has been developed for use with the Navien PEM750 heat pump, which was launched at last year's show, as well as the manufacturer's range of smart controls. It consolidates wiring and components into a single unit to reduce clutter and support safer, tidier installations.

Navien Commercial Director Greg Banham described InstallerSHOW as an important opportunity to meet with customers and showcase new technology developed with installers in mind.

A solution for the next generation of homes

Designed to support easier installation and maintenance of heat pump systems, the NAW3000 features a Zone 2 mixing valve, capable of managing two independent heating or cooling zones simultaneously. This allows different temperature outputs – such as high temperature radiators alongside low temperature underfloor heating – within the same property.

Attendees of the popular industry event will be the first to see the new electrical control hub.

Alongside the new wiring centre, Navien will showcase its wider portfolio of gas and oil boilers, water heaters and renewable solutions.

For those yet to experience the range, this offers a hands-on opportunity to explore the products. Installers will also be able to speak with Navien's sales and technical teams about product applications and system support.

Navien will exhibit on Stand 5D14 at InstallerSHOW, which takes place from 23–25 June, at the NEC, Birmingham.

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New appointment supports Grant's growth in renewables



Grant UK has appointed Richard Moncur as its new Renewables Business Development Manager covering Scotland and Northern England. Richard will be responsible for supporting renewables business development across the region, working closely with developers, social housing providers, installers, contractors and merchant partners to support the transition to low carbon, sustainable home heating.

Richard brings over three decades of experiences across the heating, plumbing and renewable energy sectors. In his role as one of Grant's Renewables Business Development Managers, Richard will provide tailored heat pump sales and technical support to developers, installers, contractors and merchants delivering projects across new build housing, social housing and local authority sectors. His appointment further strengthens Grant's sales support throughout Scotland and Northern England and will see him working alongside the company's regional sales manager, area sales managers and technical sales support engineer for the region.

Richard started his career through a trainee apprenticeship before progressing into branch, regional and business development roles within the plumbing, heating and renewables sectors.

Throughout his career, he has developed extensive technical and commercial experience, working closely with consultants, contractors, installers and distribution partners to support project delivery and long-term business growth. In more recent years, Richard has focused on renewable heating technologies, supporting the specification and adoption of air source heat pumps and hybrid systems across the new build, social housing and retrofit markets, providing practical guidance and technical support to help deliver reliable, efficient low carbon heating solutions.

In his new role, Richard will focus on renewables business development, supporting customers with system specification, delivering CPD and heat pump training, and providing tailored support to developers, installers and contractors as they transition to sustainable heating technologies. He will also play an important role in strengthening the company's presence across Scotland, building on his extensive network and experience to support continued growth in the renewable heating sector.

"I'm really pleased to be joining Grant and contributing to a company that is committed to supplying quality, sustainable heating solutions," comments Richard. "The heating industry is evolving quickly and I'm looking forward to working closely with customers, installers and partners across Scotland and Northern England, supporting their transition to renewables and helping expand Grant UK's presence in these key regions."

Heat batteries to join Boiler Upgrade Scheme in boost for consumer choice

The decision acknowledges that "a one size fits all" approach does not work when it comes to decarbonising home heating.

Heat batteries are set to be included in the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS), in a move that could widen access to low-carbon heating for homes less suited to heat pump installation.

The change means eligible households will be able to access a £2,500 grant towards the installation of a qualifying heat battery system, with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero expected to introduce the measure in 2026/27.

The announcement has been welcomed by tepeo, manufacturer of the ZEB heat battery, which stores electricity as heat for use on demand.

Johan du Plessis, CEO of tepeo, said the decision recognised that "a one size fits all" approach does not work when it comes to decarbonising home heating.

He added that millions of UK homes are not ideally suited to heat pumps, and that support for alternative technologies could help make low-carbon heating more achievable across a wider range of property types.

Heat batteries are typically

positioned as an option for flats, smaller homes and properties without outdoor space, where conventional air source heat pump installation can be more challenging. They can also make use of cheaper off-peak electricity tariffs by storing heat for later use.

A boost for consumer choice

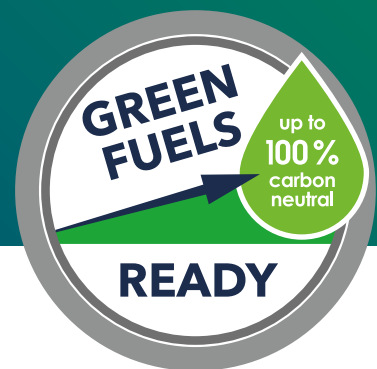
For installers and heating engineers, the development signals a broadening market in electrified heating technologies beyond heat pumps alone. As policy support evolves, opportunities may grow for businesses willing to diversify skills across multiple low-carbon systems.

Sarah Honan, Head of ADE: Demand, described the announcement as "a massive moment for consumer choice", while also calling for wider reforms to electricity pricing and VAT treatment for heat batteries.

For the oil-heating sector, the update reinforces a wider message already emerging across the market: future-proofing increasingly means understanding a broader mix of heating technologies so homeowners can be guided towards the solution that best fits their property, budget and circumstances.



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CASE STUDY: New-build bungalow benefits from an efficient heating system



A recently completed, new-build bungalow in Glenavy required a heating system capable of delivering both efficiency and comfort. With a floor area of 140m² and underfloor heating installed throughout, the property needed a solution that could provide consistent low-temperature heat while also supplying reliable domestic hot water for a high-volume shower.

Installer, Connor from KPH Renewables, submitted the project plans to Warmflow using the company's free specification service. Following assessment of the property's heating demand, a Warmflow Zeno R290 9kW Air Source Heat Pump (AS01) was specified. This model was selected to specifically match the heating requirements of the 140m² bungalow, ensuring the system could operate efficiently while maintaining comfortable indoor temperatures all year round.

Hot water needs

To meet the home's hot water needs, the system was paired with a Warmflow Nero 240ltr Heat Pump Cylinder. The larger-capacity cylinder was chosen to ensure a consistent supply of hot water, particularly important given the installation of a large-volume shower. Combined with the heat pump, the cylinder forms a balanced system designed to deliver dependable heating and hot water performance across the whole property.

The use of underfloor heating throughout the bungalow makes it an ideal candidate for a heat pump installation. Systems of this type operate most efficiently at lower flow temperatures, allowing the Zeno heat pump to work effectively with the underfloor pipework to provide steady, even heat throughout the home.

An easy decision

For Connor, choosing Warmflow was an easy decision. As a local manufacturer, Warmflow has the advantage of accessible support and technical back-up whenever required. The system also incorporates Warmlink technology, enabling installers to monitor multiple heat pumps remotely through the Warmlink app, simplifying commissioning and ongoing system management.

Connor also highlighted the completeness of the installation kit as a key benefit: "It has everything I need," he noted.



Designed with installers in mind, the package includes essential components, such as the Flexi hoses, Y strainers, Adey Magnaclean Pro 2 filter and Warmflow Zeno wiring centre, that helped to simplify the installation, save time on site and reduce time spent sourcing additional parts.

Low-carbon solution

The completed system delivers a modern, low-carbon heating solution tailored to the exact needs of the property. With the Zeno AS01 heat pump working in harmony with the Nero cylinder and the underfloor heating system, the homeowners now benefit from consistent warmth and dependable hot water throughout their new home.

This Glenavy installation demonstrates how Warmflow's R290 air source heat pump technology can provide an efficient, practical heating solution for modern new-build properties, while offering installers the reliability, support and ease of installation that Warmflow is known for.

Thirty years strong

From a boiler in the boot of a car to an established name in UK heating, Grant UK turns 30 this year. Head of Internal Sales and Marketing, Anna Wakefield, reflects on past milestones, today's heating demands and how the company continues to support, train and work alongside installers.

Thirty years ago, who could have imagined that a boiler carried in the boot of a car would mark the beginning of a business that would go on to shape both oil-fired and renewable heating in the UK? But that is exactly how the story of Grant UK began. As the company celebrates its 30th anniversary this May, it's a moment to reflect not only on where it has come from, but how it is positioning itself, and the installer community it supports, in a changing heating landscape.

Grant UK's roots stretch back to the early 1990s, when Paul Wakefield was working with some of the UK's established gas boiler and radiator manufacturers. That experience led him to become part of a small group setting up a gas combi boiler manufacturing business. It was during this time that he first encountered Grant Engineering in Ireland, owned by Stephen Grant and John Fay. Spotting an opportunity to bring Grant's oil-fired boilers to a wider UK audience, Paul helped establish what would officially become Grant UK in 1996.



Grant UK's Swindon HQ



Grant UK's Salisbury HQ, 1996



Grant UK opens new premises in Swindon 2023 - Niall Fay, Tim Pollard and Paul Wakefield

Steady growth

In the early days, growth was steady and hard won. Paul spent long hours on the road, building relationships with independent merchants, training installers and establishing trust one area at a time. That ground-level approach proved effective. As awareness grew, larger merchant groups began to take notice. A key breakthrough came when Plumb Center placed an order for 600 boilers - at the time this was equivalent to a full week's production. Similar partnerships followed with City Plumbing and Travis Perkins, firmly establishing Grant UK as a serious player in the oil boiler market.

Then came the launch of the Vortex range, Grant UK's first condensing oil-fired boiler. It was a defining moment. At a time when condensing technology was still unfamiliar to many oil installers, the company took a calculated risk. The Vortex set a new benchmark for oil boilers, changed perceptions and opened the door to wider adoption of this kind of heating.

A wider offering

While oil has remained central to Grant UK's identity, the company has never stood still. From the mid-2000s onwards, it began to broaden its offering, first with solar thermal and PV, and then in 2010 with air source heat pumps. Fast-forward to today and Grant UK now offers full sustainable heating packages, from

heat pumps to cylinders, radiators, underfloor heating systems and smart controls.

Grant UK's approach has always been to listen to the market, find the right supplier partnerships and develop products tailored for UK homes backed with installer training, guidance and support.

This is especially true when looking at Grant UK heat pumps over the past 15 years. The Company has invested heavily in heat pump development to keep driving innovation, improve efficiencies and deliver what the market needs to support the heat pump transition. The Aerona 290 heat pump range, which was launched in



Paul Wakefield

2024, was developed as a direct result of installer feedback with improved efficiencies, smarter controls, and better aesthetics.

The people

But technology is only part of the picture. At the heart of this family-owned company has always been its people. Many Grant UK team members have been with the business over 10 years, and some have celebrated milestones of more than 25 years. People have moved on from Grant UK and have either later returned or remained connected in some way, a testament to Grant UK's culture and legacy in the industry. What really stands out though is the team's ability to listen, collaborate, and respond quickly to customer needs.

Of course, there are still challenges for the business as it continues to grow, especially in heat pumps, not least around government policy, energy pricing and installation costs, but Grant UK is optimistic. Heat pump adoption is rising and Grant UK's dedicated Training, Technical, Sales and Design Teams, are here to support installers as they too navigate the future heating landscape.

As Grant UK marks its 30-year milestone, the company remains



Anna Wakefield

focused on practical thinking, developing technologies and supporting its customers. The heating market is evolving rapidly and the opportunity for installers is significant, but they need the right products, training and guidance to make the most of it. For Grant UK, that means continuing to listen to customer needs and adapt, just as it has done for the past three decades.

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Low-carbon heating set to become growing revenue stream for installers

A new survey finds that low-carbon heating is becoming central to how heating engineers make a living.

Low-carbon heating is expected to become an increasingly important source of income for heating engineers and installers, according to new research from Nesta.

Polling of 200 heating engineers and heat pump installers, carried out by Censuswide in March, found that one in four respondents expect between a quarter and half of their income to come from low-carbon heating by this winter. Overall, 70% said heat pumps are likely to account for between 10% and 50% of their revenue by the colder months.

The findings point to a market that continues to evolve, with growing opportunities for installers who broaden their skills across both traditional and renewable heating technologies.

Nesta said engineers who invest in training now could be well placed to benefit from rising demand, particularly during the spring and summer months when workloads can be more flexible.

Hands-on experience was identified as the most valuable route into learning new technologies, with 60% of those surveyed saying practical exposure to equipment such as heat pumps was the most effective way to build confidence before installation.

Opportunity

The organisation also highlighted the scale of the workforce challenge ahead, with Britain needing tens of thousands more trained engineers if annual heat pump installations are to reach 450,000 by 2030.

Madeleine Gabriel, director of sustainable future at Nesta, said:



"Low-carbon heating is becoming central to how heating engineers make a living, so we need to make it easier for them to get hands-on with the technology, build skills that pay and feel secure as demand grows."

For installers working in the oil-fired sector, the message is clear: existing heating expertise remains highly valuable, but expanding capabilities into heat pumps and other low-carbon systems could help future-proof businesses as customer demand and government policy continue to shift.



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Fuel theft – advice for technicians

With ongoing issues in the Middle East and the inflated price of kerosene, customers are concerned about tank security and minimising the chances of fuel theft.

Thieves typically have a complete disregard for property adopting a 'get in and get out quickly with whatever they can' attitude. In some cases, we hear thieves have taken what they could carry, leaving remaining fuel pouring on the ground. This article aims to highlight simple security measures, whilst considering any unintended consequences.

Location

It is understandable that people do not want to see oil tanks, but sometimes a tank visible from the house is enough for thieves to move on. Whilst we are not suggesting you try and convince customers to move existing tanks, it could be worth mentioning on replacement that tanks in view also tend to be better maintained, which minimises environmental risk.

Cameras and motion detector lighting

If a tank is not readily visible, CCTV and/or lighting triggered by movement could be a cost effective and simple to apply solution. The aim is preventing theft. Signage suggesting that 'this tank is monitored' may just be enough to encourage thieves to go elsewhere.

Contents gauges

Many electronic gauges are available. Some may be linked to a local alarm at the tank, whilst others can be linked to mobile phone applications. Technology developed to detect leaks and sudden drops in content serve to warn that something is amiss with the tank. As above, signage could avert problems before they start.

Screening

Screening the tank from view may offer some protection from opportunists. Consideration needs to be given so as not to hinder filling, prevent inspection, or compromise

operation or maintenance of any valves and filters.

Some commentators advocate growing shrubs or thorny plants around tanks. Maintaining screening of this nature should not be underestimated as tanks often become overgrown, breach separation distances of 600mm to foliage and create hazards for fuel delivery personnel. In worst cases, refusal to fill the tanks will occur because the tank condition cannot be confirmed.

Locks

To coin a phrase, 'locks only keep honest people honest'. Fill point locks offer quite a passive means of securing a tank and may suggest that the tank has significant contents. Locks pose a risk of holes being bored in the tank or the supply pipe being cut. Both result in an uncontrolled flow of fuel being released from the tank and fuel going to ground.

As a final thought – it's worth your customer checking their insurance provision for tanks and contents.

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Powerflushing - improving energy efficiency

Sludge and debris can build up in radiators, piping, and heat exchangers and cause serious blockages if they are not cleaned from heating systems. This reduces heat transfer and may cause damage to radiator valves, pipes, and heating control servo valves. In certain situations, this will ultimately result in premature boiler failure.

A common technique for maintaining and cleaning a central heating system is powerflushing. The power flushing process removes sludge accumulation, limescale, and debris from the system by forcing water through it at high velocity. A complete powerflush will enhance the property's heat distribution, which will save on energy bills and boost system reliability.

Procedure

- Electrically isolate the system and turn off all electrical controls.
- To guarantee optimal flow through the valve, fully open all wheel-head valves and TRVs. (Take note of each valve's setting so that the system can be reinstated after flushing.)
- Turn zone or diverter valves to manual.
- If installed, anti-gravity valves (also known as non-return valves) should be bridged, circumvented, or temporarily removed.
- Cap off or temporarily connect the cold-feed and open-vent to the filling and expansion tank for open-vented systems.



- Use an appropriate adapter to connect the powerflushing machine to the heating system.
- Attach the powerflushing filter to the powerflushing machine's return.
- With all radiator valves open, open the machine flow and return valves and switch on the pump. Let the unit run for 10 minutes. Check and clean the powerflushing filter on a regular basis, and reverse the flow.
- Carry out dynamic flush (balance freshwater input while dumping out dirty water). Continue until there is a significant reduction in contamination.
- Use the chemical addition port to add cleaner to the powerflushing machine. Switch on heating appliance. Increasing the temperature of the system water will improve quality and rate of cleaning process.
- Let the machine run for at least an hour while regularly reversing the flow and inspecting and cleaning the powerflushing filter. Use a 'touch test' or thermal imaging camera to make sure every radiator is producing heat correctly during this time. Switch off the boiler.
- Close the wheel-head valve or TRV to stop the flow to all but one of the radiator valves. While keeping the water level stable by adding fresh water to the tank, let the unit pump via this radiator and out to drain for two to five minutes. During this period, reverse the flow.
- After shutting off the radiator's flow, proceed to the next one. Repeat the radiator flush after opening the valves. Continue until each radiator has been flushed separately. For an additional ten minutes, or until the total dissolved solids measurements from the mains and the system drain water are within 10% of one another, open the valves on all radiators and actively flush.
- Shut off the main water supply and turn off the powerflushing machine. Close the system circulator isolation valves, and disconnect the powerflushing machine and powerflushing filter from the heating system.
- Install a system filter, add a corrosion protector via the filling loop or radiator.

Re-commissioning the system

Re-connect the system circulator and restore the electrical supply. Reset the valves to their operating positions after removing any temporary connections or covers.

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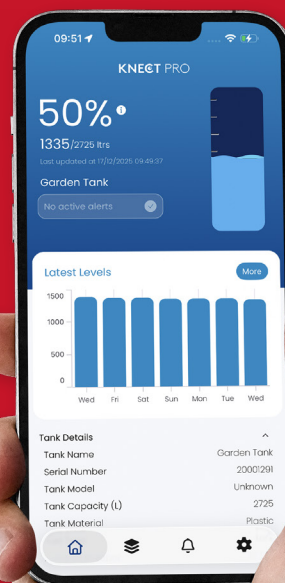


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Fuel price commentary

Tough year ahead for energy users

The latest fuel price data from the Sutherland Tables only hints at what is likely to become a difficult year ahead for energy consumers. The Sutherland Tables show the annual average prices for the previous quarter, so the current data shows the situation mostly before the conflict in the Middle East began on 28 February. However, price rises are now already baked in as a result of the conflict, so the picture will look very different as we continue through the year, even if the conflict ends quickly.

The data shows the majority of prices have risen compared to a year ago, with the biggest changes occurring in Great Britain. Electricity prices here are significantly higher than in March 2025, and oil and wood pellets have also risen. Gas and LPG users have seen welcome price falls, but this is only likely to be a temporary reprieve. In Northern Ireland mains gas users are the only significant winners, but prices have generally been fairly static, and that's even more

true in the Republic of Ireland, where only oil has seen a significant change.

Heating oil prices began to rise quickly as soon as the conflict began. This happened more quickly than other fuels because Europe is particularly dependent on the Gulf States for kerosene, and both refining and storage capacity in the UK is limited – so changes to global market prices feed through very quickly. Gas and electricity users are protected by the Government's price cap, but it's already clear that this will go up significantly in the coming months, and the energy price pain will eventually be shared by everyone.

The only comfort for oil heating customers is that once the Strait of Hormuz reopens (assuming it does), prices should also begin to fall more quickly than for other fuels. However, the unfortunate reality is that we should all expect high energy prices to continue for some time to come.

Comparative space and water heating costs for a three-bedroomed home In Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

GREAT BRITAIN (Average)					
	Mar-25	Mar-26	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	£3,036	£3,420	£384	13%	£3,172
Gas condensing boiler	£1,442	£1,377	-£65	-5%	£1,497
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	£2,023	£1,896	-£127	-6%	£1,844
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	£1,293	£1,455	£162	13%	£1,410
Wood pellets	£1,948	£2,115	£167	9%	£2,222
Air source heat pump radiators	£2,316	£2,612	£296	13%	£2,721
Air source heat pump underfloor	£2,116	£2,233	£117	6%	£2,330
NORTHERN IRELAND					
	Mar-25	Mar-26	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	£3,331	£3,451	£120	4%	£3,058
Gas condensing boiler	£1,782	£1,733	-£49	-3%	£1,764
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	£2,291	£2,449	£158	7%	£2,238
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	£1,211	£1,412	£201	17%	£1,322
Wood pellets	£1,877	£1,860	-£17	-1%	£1,777
Air source heat pump radiators	£3,003	£3,114	£111	4%	£2,679
Air source heat pump underfloor	£2,517	£2,608	£91	4%	£2,256
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND					
	Mar-25	Mar-26	Price change	% Difference	4 year average
Electric storage heaters	€3,790	€3,732	-€58	-2%	€3,806
Gas condensing boiler	€2,379	€2,404	€25	1%	€2,418
LPG Condensing boiler radiators and DHW cylinder	€2,973	€3,022	€49	2%	€2,828
Oil condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	€1,802	€1,904	€102	6%	€1,880
Wood pellets	€2,248	€2,240	-€8	-0%	€2,144
Air source heat pump radiators	€2,634	€2,634	€0	0%	€3,123
Air source heat pump underfloor	€2,272	€2,272	€0	0%	€2,677

Notes: 4-year average is March 2022 to March 2026
The tables above are based on quarterly data published by the Sutherland Tables. They show the annual average cost of a range of heating options for a typical pre-1980 three-bedroomed semi-detached home with a heat requirement of approximately 16,000 kWh. Prices are shown in pounds sterling (£) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and euros (€) for the Republic of Ireland.

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