

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
11th July 2019**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor James Evans, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan

Under the ECO2 scheme Powys approved around 3800 applications that were submitted to them by the ECO Flex agents. Of these they have confirmed that they know of 2048 installations that were actually undertaken. When the onus was on the ECO Flex agents to notify the council of completed installations, how likely is it that many of the alleged 'missing' 1800 approvals have in fact also been completed, just not declared as such to the council by the ECO Flex agents they employed to run the scheme?

Response

The 1,800 figure represents the number of measures approved by the authority but not completed, it includes cases where installations were not financially viable, and where the client cancelled and withdrew from the scheme. The figure also includes duplicate applications where clients/surveyors applied to multiple ECO agents, in an attempt to access diminishing funds. We believe there are approximately 1,200 outstanding applications, 400 of which were clients of one company in receipt of severe funding cuts towards the end of the scheme.

We acknowledge a slim possibility that some of these jobs may have been completed by agents who subsequently failed to inform the council. However, the council has pursued agents for payment on all completed schemes and has not received any complaints or enquires from recipients of installations where the council were unaware that measures had been installed.

It should be noted, ECO agents were never employed by the council, the scheme is a Government initiative administered by OFGEM and BEIS.

Looking forward to ECO3, any scheme proposal placed before Cabinet for adoption will include a mechanism to levy an upfront charge for declarations, independent of a successful installation.