|  | |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Network Innovation Competition 2021 Supplementary Answer form | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Name | EQUINOX | | |
| Question number | 33 | Pro forma section | 8 |
| Question date | 16/09/2021 | Answer date | 20/09/2021 |
| Question summary | In general, the social housing sector is adopting a “fabric first” approach to meeting their Net Zero obligations. This is consistent with advice from the Climate Change Committee and has a number of benefits from both providers’ and tenants’ perspectives. It is expected that installation of new heating installations in social housing will follow. What are the particular circumstances applying to your partners, the Welsh Government and WMCA, which give you confidence that they will be able to offer sufficient customers with HPs to your project within the required timescale? | | |

## 

## Answer (please retain document formatting and do not exceed 2 pages unless otherwise agreed with Ofgem)

Both the Welsh Government and the WMCA indeed have building decarbonisation strategies that are consistent with the “fabric first” approach. However, both stakeholders also expect a substantial role for new heating installations in addition to performance optimisation of the building fabric.

* **In the case of the Welsh Government**, their “Optimised Retrofit” programme with Sero foresees 2,000 home retrofits prior to 21/22 winter and 5,000 home retrofits prior to 22/23 winter. These are in addition to Sero’s project pipeline of 750 new homes constructed in the same period. Based on these numbers, Welsh Government and other project partners are confident to recruit at least 500 trial participants – assuming conservative new heating installation and customer recruitment rates.
* **The WMCA** have committed to retrofitting 100 to 200 homes with heating assets through their Net Zero Neighbourhood programme. As described in Goal 2 of [WMCA’s Five-Year-Plan 2021-26](https://www.wmca.org.uk/media/4870/wm-net-zero-fyp-tech-report.pdf), WMCA expects that heat pump retrofits will generally require other energy efficiency measures to be installed beforehand or at the same time; to enable a lower-sized heat pump to be installed (therefore reducing cost). As such, WMCA and other project partners are confident that at least 75 customers from the Net Zero Neighbourhood programme can be recruited onto the EQUINOX trials – assuming similar heating installation and customer recruitment rates as above.