

Display Energy Certificates and non-compliance in the public sector

PEPA has embarked on an exercise to address the widespread non-compliance in the public sector in respect of Display Energy Certificates (DECs).



In what seems like a lifetime ago, Eric Pickles, the then Secretary of State for (what was) DCLG issued a consultation on the future of DECs, but the responses were never published and the requirement to procure and display DECs was unchanged. However a number of public bodies, in particular local authorities, decided that the consultation gave them an excuse not to comply with the requirements of the DEC regulations.

PEPA has taken a two pronged approach to address the issue of DEC non-compliance.

We have issued Freedom of Information requests, to a representative sample of randomly selected local authorities, for data from which we can assess the level of non-compliance. We are currently analysing the responses and will release the findings in due course as the basis for a campaign with Government to address the issue.

The second prong is in respect of the requirement placed on Local Authorities in 2015 to appoint a neighbouring authority to police their compliance with the DEC regulations and to notify (what is now) MHCLG by 9th January 2016 the name of the authority. We issued a Freedom of Information request to the MHCLG Secretary of State to disclose the number of authorities which had met this requirement. The response has disclosed that less than 25% of local authorities have met this requirement some 3 years past the cut-off date, which is wholly unacceptable. It demonstrates the complete antipathy in the Government to the use of energy efficiency Information as an important tool in helping to improve energy efficiency across the public estate, and to play a responsible role in reducing carbon emissions.

PEPA is working with politicians who are aligned with our intent to address DEC non-compliance, to place pressure on the Government and local authorities to take action to obey the law. We will also place pressure on local authorities through local media, particularly those authorities which claim to have strong 'green' credentials.

Find out more about progress in our endeavours on this subject at the [PEPA Conference in Derby](#) on 27th February.