



Welcome to PEPA's Winter 2019 Newsletter.

PEPA represents all the EPC accreditation bodies and gives a platform for our members to work together to improve the quality, value and wider use of EPCs.

After the lull created by lack of Government strategic direction PEPA's activity over the last year has increased dramatically. PEPA has responded to all the relevant calls for evidence/consultations and these can be found here. We have representatives attending various working groups; SAPSIF, Home Buying and Selling Group (HBSG), PAS2030/2035.

Following on and in support of the various call for evidences and consultations we held a conference last year that was well received. This year's conference planning is also well underway- please see below for further details and booking form. We await the Governments responses to all of these consultations and are ready to give further support to them in achieving all their energy efficiency goals.

While we have seen a drop off in EPCs over the last 2-3 years in existing buildings that trend has begun a turnaround as volumes are increasing. The volumes which are 10-15% up on previous years appears to be down to a couple of factors; expiration of 10 year old certificates and also the impact of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES). The compliance within the private rental sector is definitely increasing which should continue as another round of toughening the regulations is due April 2019.

On construction EPCs still continue to do well and are increasing albeit slightly slower than Government targets however we are still waiting for the next building regulation changes which are long overdue. These are needed to help improve standards not simply from levels of insulation or efficiency of appliances but perhaps more importantly to address the performance gap which is undermining our efforts to promote energy efficiency and the value of energy assessments.

While we live in uncertain economic and political times the long term outlook for energy assessments is looking good. Government has started to plan and implement strategies that address their Paris Climate Agreement commitments which in many cases use energy assessments as a key tool and they also have indicated that they still want to lead Europe on environmental standards which is a clear nod to the status quo continuing. However in the short term there may be some pain if the economy falters and/or the Government delays implementation of their various strategies. We as PEPA will continue to lobby and help Government wherever we can.

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