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**PRESS RELEASE,**

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TPAS Cymru

## **New report implies that Welsh tenants are still struggling to heat their homes despite energy price drop**

**Cardiff, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026** – TPAS Cymru’s recently published sixth annual report on ‘Tenant Voice on Energy Efficiency & Affordable Warmth’ suggests that tenants from across Wales continue find it difficult to afford heating. The report uses data collected directly from tenants across Wales via survey to show the current state of energy affordability and usage in Welsh homes.

Despite energy prices temporarily stabilising under the current price cap, 76% of respondents answered that their heating was either unaffordable or only affordable occasionally. The data collected shows that working aged people struggled the most with affordable heating, reflecting a wider issue of continued energy poverty for Welsh tenants.

Linking to unaffordability, tenants are adapting their behaviour with little to no heating. 1 in 4 tenants who responded mentioned that they use little to no heating, indicating that some households may be limiting heating use altogether.

Tenants are not just adapting their use of heating but are also deploying other strategies to stay warm affordably. 86% of respondents noted that they use extra clothing or blankets, with 42% reporting the use of hot water bottles and 34% using electric blankets/heaters. These figures show that tenants are moving away from heating entire homes, focusing on targeted and direct warmth rather than environmental.

David Wilton, TPAS Cymru’s CEO, said: “the statistics in the report show that there is still a long way to go in the move towards affordable heating for both private renters and social housing tenants. This was the purpose of the report; to show the sector a realistic view of how tenants in Wales are living”.

The report also has interesting insights around energy efficiency. Tenant knowledge of EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) ratings is still low across the sector. 75% of respondents noted that they’re either unsure or do not know their home’s EPC rating. When pressed further, respondents who said they knew the EPC rating of their home showed confusion and/or concern over its accuracy.

One tenant responded the EPC rating of their home to be “G” which falls below the minimum standard of rented properties. The respondent also recorded that they were an older social housing tenant (60+) who also recorded that they used little to no heating and relied on extra clothes/blankets and hot water bottles for additional warmth.

Akshita Lakhiwal, TPAS Cymru's Net-Zero Engagement officer and lead author of the report said: "The lack of understanding and knowledge around energy efficiency is directly impacting tenants. What this report shows is the need to make sure that the quality of housing stock is improved. Tenants should not have to be resorting to behavioural changes to stay warm."

David Wilton further said: "Although prices may be stabilising, what this report shows that more work needs to be done to achieve more affordable heating and energy efficiency in Welsh rented properties. Landlords need to communicate better with their tenants around energy efficiency and affordability. TPAS Cymru will work to ensure that tenants voices are heard within the sector and these changes are made."

**END**

### **Note to Editors**

#### **Organisational Information**

**TPAS Cymru are a non-profit organisation** who have supported social housing tenants and landlords in Wales for over 35 years, with a strong track record in developing effective participation through training, support, practical projects, and policy development across the social housing sector. Every Housing Association and stock-retaining Local Authority in Wales is a member, showing a large reach for engagement. They have an extensive knowledge of social housing with a focus on issues from the tenant perspective and for tenants' benefit.

Website: <https://www.tpas.cymru/>

Full report it available [here](#).

Executive summary available [here](#).

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