

# Defining a Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard for zero carbon homes

## Appendix F Consultation Activities

The views and recommendations within this report are those of the Task Group and do not necessarily reflect the views of Government



# Consultation Activities

## Introduction

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the main report entitled 'Defining a Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard for zero carbon homes'.

The Task Group were keen to seek initial feedback from industry during development of the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard. The Zero Carbon Hub has developed a number of methods with which to gather such information. A small selection of the feedback has been included within the main report.

This section provides greater detail regarding the different responses received via the live event voting, opinion boards, comment cards and online survey.

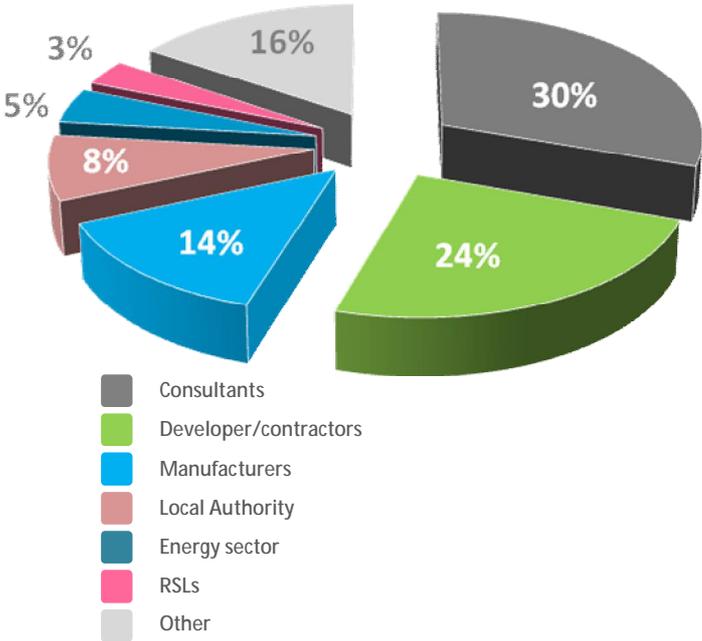
## Consultation participants

To evaluate and test its interim proposals for an energy efficiency standard, the Zero Carbon Hub carried out a consultation process in October 2009. The feedback from this consultation was then reported back to the Task Group, informing the development of the final proposals set out in this document.

To maximise opportunities for feedback the Zero Carbon Hub developed and ran a series of interactive consultation events on 20, 21 and 22 October in, respectively, Manchester, Bristol and London. These attracted in total just over 180 delegates. In addition, in partnership with Building Magazine, the Zero Carbon Hub ran an on-line questionnaire, inviting responses to some of the main proposals. Over 220 people completed the on-line questionnaire.

Of the total 400 individuals from across the industry; the main participants were consultants and developer/contractors. The participant breakdown from the consultation events are shown below.

Careful consideration was given to how the proposals were presented to ensure that feedback was as well informed as possible. A briefing paper was available to all delegates before the consultation events and this (and short customised notes) were available for the on-line questionnaire respondents. This short briefing paper was considered a successful approach, with 26% of delegates identifying it as helpful, with a further 51% rating it as helpful.



Delegate breakdown from the three consultation events

## Industry Consultation events

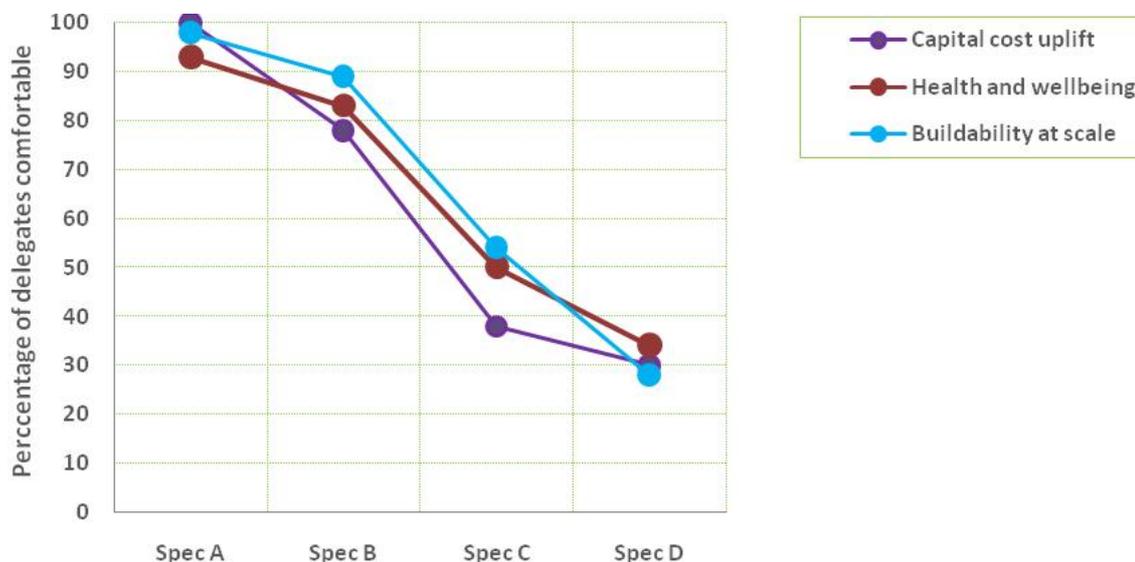
At these events, delegates were taken progressively through the proposals, with experts at hand to provide detailed responses to questions and give explanations. They expressed their views through **Electronic hand held voting equipment**, providing a quantitative response to the proposals. The main findings from the voting were fed back for the consideration of the Task Group. These are represented as pi charts throughout the report.

Delegates who felt strongly on a specific point were able to pass this back as additional feedback using a **Response Card**. This qualitative feedback was evaluated carefully in the final drafting of the proposals.

In addition delegates were invited to contribute to a series of **Opinion boards**. These panels set out diagrammatically the key energy efficiency features of the test specifications examined by the Task Group. Delegates were invited to consider these proposals and offer their judgement on the impact of increasing energy efficiency level on key, wider, aspects of performance. This exercise provided

further qualitative feedback indicating where people are comfortable with specifications and where their concerns increase.

The variety of activity seemed to create good opportunities for people to engage with the topic (and each other) and to generate confidence that their views were valuable to the overall consultation process. The events were very highly rated by the delegates.



Responses from the Opinion Panels:  
How comfortable were delegates with the different test specifications?

## On line survey

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The on line survey invited responses to a shortlisted series of questions on the proposals. These questions were presented slightly differently as they were necessarily stand alone. 'Pop up' notes were supplied with each question to give background and to minimise misinterpretation. The results from the on-line questionnaire mirrored quite closely the responses to the equivalent questions at the consultation events and are also presented in the main report.

The industry consultation process was a vital part of the Task Group's work. It providing a strong overall endorsement for the main proposals with overwhelming support for the focus on building fabric, for the selected performance metric and for a variable target level for different dwelling types. It pinpointed a number of areas where the proposals were less clear or needed further clarification.

The consultation process provides the Zero Carbon Hub with concerns and insights from different interest groups within housing. This will be valuable in steering future guidance and information related to the development of the Standard.

More details of the consultation feedback will be available on the Zero Carbon Hub Website [www.zerocarbonhub.org](http://www.zerocarbonhub.org).