

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk
Our Ref: DETI SUB 158/2011

Mr Samuel Gardiner MBE
Constituency Office
58a High Street
LURGAN
Co. Armagh
BT66 8AU

18 April 2011

Dear Sammy

**GAS NETWORK EXTENSION – CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSE TO DETI
ORAL SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO AQO 1353/11 AND 1367/11 RE
BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS**

I am writing to you with regard to the response I gave to a supplementary question about gas network extension on 23 March 2011 in follow-up to your original question regarding the impact of energy costs on business.

It has been brought to my attention that the answer I gave to the supplementary question from Ian McCrea requires clarification in relation to a particular point about a public consultation exercise on natural gas network extension in Northern Ireland.

In 2010, my Department and the Utility Regulator completed a study into the technical and economic feasibility of extending the natural gas network to towns in the west and remaining areas in the north-west of Northern Ireland where natural gas is not available. In my answer to Mr McCrea's question about public consultation on extension of the gas network, I responded that this matter is out for consultation. In fact, my Department is developing proposals for consultation and plans to issue a formal consultation on natural gas network extension in summer 2011.

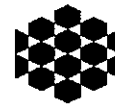
I hope this provides clarification to my previous response. I am also writing to Ian McCrea, and other Members who participated in the debate, and I have asked for copies of all correspondence to be sent to the Speaker's Office, and for copies to be placed in the Assembly Library for the record.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlene Foster".

ARLENE FOSTER
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk
Our Ref: DETI SUB 158/2011

Mrs Dolores Kelly
Constituency Office
7 William Street
LURGAN
Co. Armagh
BT66 6JA

18 April 2011

Dear Dolores

**GAS NETWORK EXTENSION – CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSE TO DETI
ORAL SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO AQO 1353/11 AND 1367/11 RE
BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS**

I am writing to you with regard to the response I gave to a supplementary question about gas network extension on 23 March 2011 in follow-up to the original questions put down by Ian McCrea and Samuel Gardiner regarding the impact of energy costs on business.

It has been brought to my attention that the answer I gave to the supplementary question requires clarification in relation to a particular point about the public consultation exercise on natural gas network extension in Northern Ireland.

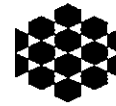
In 2010, my Department and the Utility Regulator completed a study into the technical and economic feasibility of extending the natural gas network to towns in the west and remaining areas in the north-west of Northern Ireland where natural gas is not available. In my answer to Ian McCrea's supplementary question about public consultation on extension of the gas network, I responded that this matter is out for consultation. In fact, my Department is developing proposals for consultation and plans to issue a formal consultation on natural gas network extension in summer 2011.

I hope this provides clarification to my previous response. I am writing to all contributors to the debate on AQO 1353/11 and 1367/11, and have asked for copies of all correspondence to be sent to the Speaker's Office, and for copies to be placed in the Assembly Library for the record.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk
Our Ref: DETI SUB 158/2011

Dr Stephen Farry
Constituency Office
58 Abbey Street
BANGOR
Co. Down
BT20 4JB

18 April 2011

Dear Stephen

**GAS NETWORK EXTENSION – CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSE TO DETI
ORAL SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO AQO 1353/11 AND 1367/11 RE
BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS**

I am writing to you with regard to the response I gave to a supplementary question about gas network extension on 23 March 2011 in follow-up to the original questions put down by Ian McCrea and Samuel Gardiner regarding the impact of energy costs on business.

It has been brought to my attention that the answer I gave to the supplementary question requires clarification in relation to a particular point about the public consultation exercise on natural gas network extension in Northern Ireland.

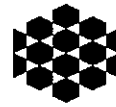
In 2010, my Department and the Utility Regulator completed a study into the technical and economic feasibility of extending the natural gas network to towns in the west and remaining areas in the north-west of Northern Ireland where natural gas is not available. In my answer to Ian McCrea's supplementary question about public consultation on extension of the gas network, I responded that this matter is out for consultation. In fact, my Department is developing proposals for consultation and plans to issue a formal consultation on natural gas network extension in summer 2011.

I hope this provides clarification to my previous response. I am writing to all contributors to the debate on AQO 1353/11 and 1367/11, and have asked for copies of all correspondence to be sent to the Speaker's Office, and for copies to be placed in the Assembly Library for the record.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk
Our Ref: **DETI SUB 158/2011**

Mr Ian McCrea
Constituency Office
34 Fairhill Road
COOKSTOWN
Co. Tyrone
BT80 8AG

18 April 2011

Dear Ian

**GAS NETWORK EXTENSION – CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSE TO DETI
ORAL SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO AQO 1353/11 AND 1367/11 RE
BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS**

I am writing to you with regard to the response I gave to your supplementary question about gas network extension on 23 March 2011 in follow-up to the original questions put down by you and Samuel Gardiner regarding the impact of energy costs on business.

It has been brought to my attention that the answer I gave to your supplementary question requires clarification in relation to a particular point about the public consultation exercise on natural gas network extension in Northern Ireland.

In 2010, my Department and the Utility Regulator completed a study into the technical and economic feasibility of extending the natural gas network to towns in the west and remaining areas in the north-west of Northern Ireland where natural gas is not available. In my answer to your question about public consultation on extension of the gas network, I responded that this matter is out for consultation. In fact, my Department is developing proposals for consultation and plans to issue a formal consultation on natural gas network extension in summer 2011.

I hope this provides clarification to my previous response. I am also writing to Samuel Gardiner and other Members who participated in the debate, and I have asked for copies of all correspondence to be sent to the Speaker's Office, and for copies to be placed in the Assembly Library for the record.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment