From the Office of the Minister

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Our Ref: DETI SUB 529/2014

Sammy Wilson MP MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 355
Parliament Buildings
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19 November 2014

Dear Sammy

I refer to the Topical Question (AQT1586/11-15) raised by you in the Northern Ireland Assembly on Monday 13 October related to the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project (NIBIP) and when it will impact in the East Antrim Constituency. In that regard I undertook to provide you with further information.

As you will be aware, the NIBIP is being delivered in eight phases with each preceded by an extensive survey and design process which takes account of a number of factors including technical feasibility, quality of existing infrastructure in the area, reasonable costs, number of anticipated customers etc. The use of this methodology enables us to ensure that we achieve the greatest value for money, while at the same time ensuring the highest number of beneficiaries.

Information in relation to the postcode districts where improvements have been made are published on the NI Direct website as each phase completes. A list of the areas where improvements have been completed under the first two phases is already publicly available at http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/broadband-improvement-project where you will also find an indicative schedule of improvements throughout the remainder of the project. It should be noted that there is no guarantee that all premises within an area where work has completed will see an improvement.

I can confirm that improvement work has already completed in one postcode district within the East Antrim Constituency i.e. BT38 9. To find out if this will impact upon their premises, consumers should use the online postcode checker which can be found at http://www.online.detini.gov.uk/Broadband/Start.aspx and, if so, contact an internet service provider of their choice to find out what packages are available. A list of potential providers can be found at http://nibroadband.com/get-superfast although this is not exhaustive.

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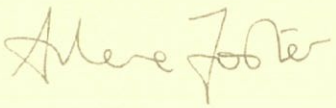
For those areas within the East Antrim constituency where work has not yet taken place, consumers should use the online postcode checker to establish when the work is expected to be completed and, if so, consumers should contact a supplier of their choice as before.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be sent to the Speaker's Office and a copy will also be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely



ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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