



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Library Service Briefing Note

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Major Fuel Suppliers in Northern Ireland

1 Background

This piece of research was conducted following a request from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (CETI). It identifies the major heating and transport fuel suppliers in Northern Ireland including the four main importers of oil based products to the region.

Also included is a brief discussion regarding which other Statutory Committees have overlapping responsibilities with CETI in this area.

2 Committees with Related Responsibilities

The various Statutory Committees were contacted and asked if they had a remit regarding transport and heating fuel. Below are listed the committees that stated they had responsibilities in this area and what these responsibilities are:

- **Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister:** This Committee has an overarching remit that includes consideration of poverty, with a focus on child and older people poverty. The Committee has conducted an inquiry into child poverty which cited rising fuel costs as a potential factor in the level of child poverty rising in the future¹.
- **Committee for Education:** There may be some impact of higher fuel prices on school budgets and on transport to and from schools;
- **Committee for Finance and Personnel:** The CFP is currently looking at fuel taxation as part of its remit around fuel duty; and
- **Committee for Social Development:** Higher heating fuel prices have a direct impact on the work of CSD as part of its remit covers winter fuel payments and fuel poverty.

3 Fuel Importers

There are four terminals in Northern through which Oil based products enter Northern Ireland. Three of these are based in Belfast and the fourth in Derry/Londonderry.

These terminals are the only importers of oil (both heating and transport related) based products to Northern Ireland and act as suppliers to the various fuel distributors across NI.

The four major fuel importers are:

Belfast:

BP Oil UK Limited

Airport Road West,

Sydenham,

Belfast,

BT3 9EA

Tel: 02890 458 422

¹ Committee of the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister June 2008 Final Report on the Committee's Inquiry into Child Poverty in Northern Ireland http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/centre/2007mandate/reports/Report08_07_08r_vol1.htm (first accessed 06/05/2010)

DCC Energy Limited
Airport Road West,
Sydenham,
Belfast,
BT3 9ED
Tel: 02890 454 555

NuStar Limited
NI Terminal,
Airport Road,
Sydenham,
Belfast,
BT3 9ED
Tel: 02890 771 242

Derry/Londonderry:

LSS Limited,
Carrakeel Industrial Park,
Maydown,
Derry/Londonderry,
BT47 6SZ
Tel: 02871 861451

4 Major Heating and Transport Fuel Distributors in Northern Ireland

A list of the major heating oil and transport fuel suppliers in Northern Ireland can be found in the attached excel sheet. There are 68 suppliers in all listed. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list with the source being the membership list of the Northern Ireland Oil Federation. Discussions with the Consumer Council of NI (CCNI) found that there are over three hundred suppliers in Northern Ireland, with CCNI holding a list of 175 to date.

The largest fuel suppliers identified by CCNI are:

- Donnelly Fuels;
- EMO Oil;
- Maxol Direct;
- Nicholl Oils; and
- Shell Direct.

It must also be noted that a number of the larger Supermarkets in Northern Ireland now supply transport fuel. These are:

Sainsbury Head Office

33 Holborn,
High Holborn,
London EC1N 2HT

Tesco

New Tesco House
Delamare Road
Cheshunt
Hertfordshire
England EN8 9SL

Switchboard telephone: (0)1992 632222

ASDA

Asda House
Southbank
Great Wilson Street
Leeds
LS11 5AD

5 Breakdown of Transport Fuel Costs

For a litre of unleaded petrol costing 116p (based on the 10th March 2010 average for the UK) the following costs were included²:

Fuel Duty: 63p (54%)

Manufacturer: 27p (23%)

² Cheap Petrol and Diesel www.moneysavingexpert.com

VAT: 17p (15%)

Retailer: 9p (8%)

Discussions with the Consumer Council of NI have found that a further break down of costs for both transport fuel and heating oil is difficult to get at best as a result of importers and manufacturers citing commercial sensitivity. This lack of information includes the type of oil used to manufacture oil based products and its quality which can effect pricing further along the supply chain.