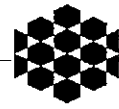


From the Office of the Minister



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Sandra Overend MLA  
Constituency Office  
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BT45 7PP

20 February 2012

Dear Sandra

At oral questions on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February you asked the question below and I undertook to provide you with an update.

***Given that small businesses consistently identify electricity as their most widely used energy source and the Carbon Trust as the most widely recognised source of information on energy-saving advice for homes and businesses, what impact has the fact that the Carbon Trust no longer delivers Invest Northern Ireland's sustainable energy programme?***

Invest NI is planning to deliver a suite of business support measures over the current Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period, up to 2014/15, across the resource efficiency areas of water, waste, materials and energy. This suite of support will range from the provision of advice, information and specialist technical consultancy through to the availability of interest free loans and grants that will assist businesses to implement resource efficiency projects and achieve bottom line savings. The portfolio of support will also embrace technology transfer events for groups of businesses as well as regional or sectoral initiatives and industrial symbiosis activities.

Invest NI has requested a proposal from the Carbon Trust to continue to administer and manage the existing Energy Efficiency Loan Fund to which Invest NI plans to provide a further £3.5 million over the current CSR period (beyond what it has provided up to 2011/12, some £8.5 million). This proposal is currently the subject of negotiation and Invest NI's corporate approval processes, which are expected to conclude shortly.

Targets are in place to ensure that these measures continue to deliver substantial savings for businesses.

Finally, I wish to clarify that the Carbon Trust does not have, nor has it had, a remit in the domestic sector. You may possibly have had "The Energy Saving Trust" in mind but that organisation has not been funded by my Department.

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

Yours sincerely

**ARLENE FOSTER MLA**  
Minister of Enterprise Trade & Investment