

From: Eilish O'Neill

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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012

Dear Dr Kevin Pelan

Thank you for your letter dated the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 asking for a response to correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for Finance and Personnel requesting further information on Green New Deal following the Green New Deal Group's response to the Programme for Government.

In his budget statement in 2011, the Minister for Finance and Personnel allocated £12m over the next three financial years for a Green New Deal solution. The Cross Departmental Group, chaired by my Department and including officials from Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Department of Finance and Personnel and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development were tasked with examining options for the delivery of the programme to determine the most cost effective way of spending the £12m, ensuring that the maximum benefit is realised from the expenditure within the timescale allocated.

The Cross Departmental Group has developed an economic appraisal for a Green New Deal solution in accordance with the guidance in the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE). The economic appraisal examined different models for the delivery of a programme to support improving the energy

efficiency of domestic building stock in Northern Ireland and included the Green New Deal Group's business proposal of the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 as one of the shortlisted options within the economic appraisal.

Each of the options were assessed on the basis of what they propose to deliver in the context of improving energy efficiency in domestic properties within the timescale allocated, any associated benefits or costs, wider economic benefits in relation to private sector expenditure, direct job creation/income and multiplier effects. It also assesses any associated risks around the potential to deliver the proposal including where those risks may lie.

The economic appraisal has been forwarded to the Cross Departmental Group Ministers for their comments so that the programme can be taken forward.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Eilish O'Neill