

Mr Brimstone is asked to provide a short briefing to the Committee of his understanding of which organisation/organisations he was meeting on 16 April 2012, what he understood the meeting was to be about, his role in attending, his role in drafting or amending any subsequent communications (emails, letters, minutes etc) which may have arisen as a result of this meeting and any other information that is relevant to this issue, including any previous meetings or communications with representatives of Turkington Holdings.

Following the Minister's announcement in late 2011 that as part of its Programme for Government the Northern Ireland Executive gave a commitment to have all Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) homes fully double glazed by 2015, I was approached by a representative of Turkington Holdings who asked if they could meet with me to share how they believed this Executive priority could be delivered with significant savings to the public purse. I agreed and I met with representatives of Turkington Holdings on 25th January 2012.

Though I cannot recall the detail of the meeting, I do recall forming the impression that Mr Young was going to write to the department on behalf of the Glass and Glaziers Federation asking for a meeting with the Minister in relation to realise potential savings.

I subsequently verbally updated the Minister on the meeting I had held and indicated that it was likely that the GGF would request a meeting with the Minister.

I was aware I was likely to be taking leave so I verbally informed the Minister's Private Secretary a letter from the GGF requesting a meeting was to be expected, that the Minister was interested in what they had to say and that as it was ultimately a matter for the NIHE the Chief Executive should also be invited.

I attended a meeting on the 16th April 2012 with Minister, departmental officials, and NIHE officials, Mr. Young and Mr. McKeag. My role in attending was as Special Advisor to the Minister. I had been on leave when the letter requesting the meeting was cleared by Minister and had not seen that the meeting was being requested by Turkington Holdings as opposed to the GGF. I did not see this letter until around July 2013. In April 2012 I believed that though the meeting was attended by staff from Turkington Holdings, they were in fact representing the GGF.

The only communication I had any sight of or role in drafting or amending was the letter to the Chair of Committee for Social Development on the 24th May 2012. The Minister's recollection of the meeting on the 16th April 2012 was that whilst staff from Turkington Holdings were present it was the GGF and its standards that were being discussed. The Minister also had a recollection that there had been a separate meeting with Fusion 21 where some of the same issues were discussed. He asked me that those suggested amendments be noted on the letter and it was sent back via Private Office to officials. An amended letter which reflected Minister's amendments was subsequently sent back to Minister with no concerns or alternative suggestions being raised.