

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

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Our Ref: DETI SUB 472/2014

Roy Beggs MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 306
Parliament Buildings
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30 September 2014

Dear Roy

DETI ORAL QUESTIONS 16 SEPTEMBER 2014

In my absence on official business, the Minister of Finance and Personnel responded to oral questions on 16 September.

In relation to your question on the development of an energy storage facility in the East Antrim area he said my Department would correspond with you.

You asked for assurance that no public funding will be used to create that facility. The project you refer to has been designated as a European Union Project of Common Interest (PCI). PCIs are projects which the Union views as complementary to its energy policy.

PCIs are eligible to seek grant funding for associated project works such as economic appraisals and engineering and technical studies from the €5.85 billion Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a fund that is administered centrally by the European Union. PCI status also offers opportunity for project promoters to source funding for capital works when the projects are at development stage. The expectation is that such funding would be by way of financial instruments such as loans through the European Investment Bank. There is no expectation or requirement that PCIs will be funded through public funds and my Department has not made any commitment to do so.

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

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment