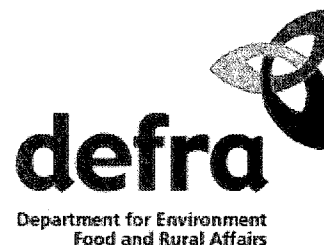


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The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC136749/SC  
Your ref: 01091781/SC

14 June 2009

**From the Secretary of State**  
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

*D. Tena*

Thank you for your letter of 21 May to Ed Miliband enclosing a copy of an email from a number of your constituents about EDM 1250. Your letter has been passed to Defra for reply as my department has responsibility for this policy area.

Clauses 83 to 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008 require the Government to:

- publish guidance to help organisations measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions that they are responsible for (by 1 October 2009);
- carry out a review into the contribution of reporting in helping the UK to meet its climate change objectives (by December 2010);
- make regulations under the Companies Act 2006 on the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions or lay a report to Parliament explaining why this has not happened (by 6 April 2012).

As a result, the oil, gas and power sectors may be required to report on greenhouse gas emissions that they are responsible for. This could include both direct and indirect emissions associated with fuel production and processing (e.g. extraction of oil from tar sands) and the generation of electricity (e.g. from unabated coal fired power stations). Defra is currently developing guidance on how UK organisations should measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions and there will be a public consultation on this guidance over the summer.

In terms of forward-looking information for investors, Defra supports the Carbon Disclosure Project. This is a voluntary global investor initiative to drive increased corporate disclosure around listed companies' greenhouse gas emissions and the risks and opportunities to their business from climate change. Companies are asked to disclose on a range of climate related issues, for example, how the cost of future emissions has been factored into capital expenditures and what impact these costs have on their investment decisions.

I hope this is helpful.

HILARY BENN