



Charles Hendry MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

24 November 2011

Dear Colleague

THE ENERGY RED TAPE CHALLENGE: 25 NOVEMBER TO 30 DECEMBER 2011

I wrote to you on 1 September with my colleague Jim Paice about both the Environment and Energy Red Tape Challenge exercises. The Environment theme ran throughout September, and has received 3100 suggestions. These ideas are currently being used by my ministerial colleagues to challenge departments to meet their environmental commitments in as efficient and effective a way as possible. You should expect announcements early next year.

I am now writing to you again to remind you that the Energy Red Tape Challenge theme will go live on Friday 25 November DECC. Again, we will be looking for ideas, feedback, and suggestions from business, environment groups, and the public on how to reduce unnecessary and excessive burdens, this time specifically around our energy regulations.

The launch of the Energy theme comes at a crucial time. As you'll be aware the UK faces some major energy challenges over the next decade and beyond: we need to keep the lights on through low carbon means, at lowest cost achievable. It is vital that we have a regulatory regime which promotes fairness and consumer protection, but doesn't impose unnecessary costs (we need affordable energy) or barriers to generating the necessary investment, innovation and skills we need to build the low carbon economy.

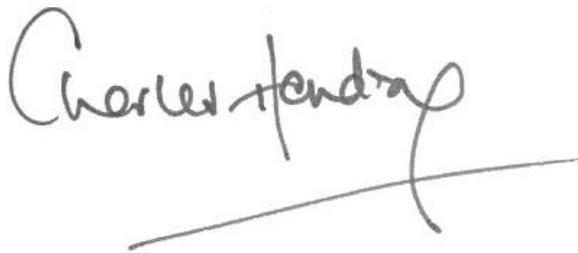
I want to be absolutely clear that our long-term economic success and quality of life relies on protecting and enhancing the natural environment and avoiding dangerous climate change and regulations are key to that. We have no intention to reduce environmental protection or draw back from our climate change commitments, but we are looking for ideas on how we can do this in as effective and efficient a way as possible.

However that doesn't mean there is no room for improvement, quite the opposite. Government doesn't have all the answers and I would like to encourage you to engage with this initiative either through the central website / by post, and please invite your colleagues, associates and members to do the same: the more specific examples we receive the better we can respond. We are interested in hearing how our regulations impact on you, and your ideas for reducing that burden while still achieving our policy goals. We want to use this evidence to make real changes to our regulatory framework. But we also want to know what currently works well and should be left in place.

Comments can be made from 25 November to 31 December on the Red Tape Challenge website www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk or send a submission to the Red Tape Challenge Team at redtapechallenge@bis.gsi.gov.uk. The scope of the formal Red Tape Challenge is narrower than the full range of Energy-related regulation, but we are keen to capture your views and so if you have comments on regulations not listed, you can send them to DECC at redtapechallenge@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

I am personally committed to making a real difference and I look forward to working with you on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Hendry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a signature underline.

CHARLES HENDRY