Written Question

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to extending access to the (a) Farming Recovery Fund and (b) Repair and Renew scheme to those coastal and fishing businesses affected by the winter storms.

George Eustice: Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 20 February of the Repair and Renew Grant, help will be available for people and businesses whose properties have suffered internal damage from flooding (but not from storms) since the beginning of December 2013. The grant of up to Â£5,000 will contribute towards improvements to the fabric of their property or premises that would help reduce the impact and cost of any subsequent flooding. The scheme, which only applies to England, opens on 1 April 2014.

The Government's Â£10 million Farming Recovery Fund is for farm businesses. It will help them to restore flooded agricultural land and bring it back into production as quickly as possible. It will not be extended to coastal and fishing businesses.

Further options are being considered to help fishermen affected by storms.

Hansard