Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

(1) if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the price of heating oil (a) for rural communities and (b) in general;

(2) if he will consider the merits of introducing a domestic heating oil price stabiliser for rural communities.

Charles Hendry (Minister of State (Renewable Energy), Energy and Climate Change)

The OFT has launched its market study into the off-grid energy market, particularly with regards to heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The study will cover both consumer and competition issues. It will look at the market's structure and the choice of suppliers, whether competition is working well for consumers, and contractual terms and fairness in supply agreements. The OFT expects to publish the study in October 2011; its findings and conclusions will help to determine whether any changes are needed to the off-grid energy market.

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