Written Answer

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the withdrawal of emergency towing vehicle funding comparing the south-west of England and the north-west of Scotland.

Michael Penning (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Roads and Motoring), Transport; Hemel Hempstead, Conservative)

The decision to withdraw the emergency towing vessels (ETVs) was part of the comprehensive spending review package announced in October 2010, and reflected the Government's judgment about the balance of risk of pollution around the UK coast in the event of a maritime accident. This decision was based on the then current running costs of the ETV contract, and the determination that the costs of any future pollution incident will be borne by the polluter on a cost recovery basis. There was no specific cost benefit analysis comparing the south-west of England and north-west of Scotland.

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