



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Downstream Oil Protocol

Dear Secretary of State,

In response to your statement issued on Sunday 26th September, I am writing to request an urgent update on your decision to implement the Downstream Oil Protocol, which temporarily exempts industry from the Competition Act 1998 for the purposes of sharing information and optimising supply.

I would appreciate it if you could outline how long you expect this temporary measure to be in place and how quickly you expect to see its impact on supply chain pressures. I would also appreciate an update on how your department will work with companies to identify priority and strategic locations. I also seek your reassurance that this temporary exemption from the Competition Act 1998, will not permit a potential price spike for consumers at the pump.

Finally, I understand that this is an ongoing situation, and that Cabinet will consider other potential options to alleviate current supply chain pressures this afternoon. I would appreciate a further update on how your department is working with other departments across Government to address immediate issues in relation to supply chain pressures in the distribution of fuel, but also in addressing the longer-term issues affecting a range of supply chains, to avoid the winter becoming a period when the Government lurches from one supply chain crisis to the next.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Jones MP
Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee