

Victoria Hall  
12 May Street  
**Belfast** BT1 4NL  
Tel: 028 9025 1246  
Fax: 028 9025 1240  
DX464 NR Belfast 1

Paul Dolaghan  
Department of Enterprise & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
**BELFAST**  
BT4 2JP

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

Dear Paul

**APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALIST LEGAL ADVISERS**

I refer to the letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> July from Fiona Hepper to Ossie Paulin of this Office and to our subsequent meeting.

As we discussed at that meeting, this Office will, of course, be happy to continue to provide general public law advice to the Department in connection with Energy Matters. However, we do not have the necessary expertise available to meet Department needs for advice on specialist energy matters. Here I am thinking, in particular, of the provision of advice which requires a detailed, technical knowledge of the way in which energy markets are organised and operate.

We discussed whether this Office may be able in future to develop such expertise, but there were a number of difficulties here. First of all, doing so would require 'buying in' the necessary skills and expertise to help train lawyers in this Office. This would itself be expensive, given the likely salary expectations of a person with the necessary skills and experience. And would be a very real risk that the Department would not be able to retain the services of that person or anyone trained by that person so the investment may well prove nugatory.

In the circumstances, continuing to contract-out the necessary work does seem to be the best option available to the Department and we will, of course, be happy to work with the Department in running any competition for the purposes of ensuring best value for money.

Yours sincerely

*Paul McGinn*

**P McGINN**  
**Director Division 2**

