

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment****ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS ORAL (AQO)**

**Due for answer on:**            **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**AQO No:**                    **6996/11-15**

**Put Down By:**            **Mr K McCarthy**

**Political Party:**         **Alliance**

**Constituency:**         **Strangford**

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**Question:**

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she plans to improve the availability of gas to rural areas.

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**Answer:**

I continue to support the economic and efficient development of the natural gas industry in Northern Ireland. Further extension of the gas network will depend on the availability of sufficient gas loads and willingness of a gas company to apply for a licence to provide new networks.

Where it is not feasible to provide natural gas, my Department will continue to support the availability of other energy options, such as renewable heat technologies, as alternatives to heating oil.

**Arlene Foster MLA**  
**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**Date:**