

**TIM FARRON MP**

*Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Westmorland & Lonsdale*



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Dr. Henry Adams  
55 Hayclose Crescent  
KENDAL, CUMBRIA  
LA9 7NT

Our Ref: Adam032/25/hr  
Your Ref:

26 November 2013

Dear Henry

Please find enclosed a copy of the response from the Minister of State for Transport to the letter that I wrote on your behalf with regard to support for default values for unconventional fuels.

I regret that the EU has not yet reached a conclusive decision on the Fuel Quality Directive and I am sorry that the Minister has not fully endorsed the position which you support.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Farron".

**TIM FARRON MP**

*Please reply to Constituency Office*

Acland House, Yard 2, Stricklandgate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4ND

Tel: 01539 723403 Email: [tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk)

While Tim Farron MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on all or some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case. Tim Farron MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.





Department  
for Transport

Tim Farron MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State  
**Baroness Kramer**

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Our Ref: MC/89205  
Your ref: Adam032/25/ac

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*Dear Tim*

Thank you for your letter of 29 October, on behalf of your constituent, Dr Henry Adams of 55 Hayclose Crescent, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7NT, about EDM 240.

As you are aware EDM 240 urges the Government to support implementing measures under the Fuel Quality Directive for separate default values for unconventional fuels, including oil shale and tar sands, during negotiations and in the vote in the EU Council of Ministers later this year.

I should like to assure you that we take the environmental implications of exploiting high carbon intensity crudes very seriously and are seeking a solution that effectively addresses the carbon emissions from all highly polluting crudes – including those from oil sands. The Government wants the Fuel Quality Directive to be a key tool to achieve this aim.

However, given that the overwhelming supply of crudes to the EU come from conventional sources, it would be irresponsible environmentally to concentrate solely on unconventional fuels.

The Fuel Quality Directive was adopted in April 2009. Article 7 requires that European fuel suppliers reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas intensity (the GHG intensity) of the fuel/energy supplied for use in road transport by 6% in 2020, against a 2010 baseline. In October 2011 the European Commission proposed a set of implementing measures, under article 7a, to account for the differing carbon intensity of fossil fuels. In February 2012 Member States failed to reach agreement on these proposals, returning a 'no opinion' vote at the comitology stage.



The UK abstained from voting on the Commission's proposals. Abstaining made clear that we remain supportive of the proposal's aim – to reduce harmful emissions from fuels – but there were many technical elements within the previous proposals voted on in February 2012 with which the Government did not agree.

The Commission has since delayed a further vote until it has completed an impact assessment of its implementing measures. These measures include proposals for an accounting methodology for the greenhouse gas emissions from transport fuels, including fossil fuels. We expect a vote to take place at Environment Council later this year. The Government is continuing to work with the European Commission as it develops its proposals.

I am grateful for your constituent's letter on behalf of the South Lakes Action Group on Climate Change setting out their position on the Fuel Quality Directive and support for the briefing prepared by the UK Tar Sands Network. I should like to assure your constituent that my officials have been speaking to interested parties throughout the summer, in anticipation of further proposals for implementing measures under the Directive being brought forward by the Commission. My predecessor, Norman Baker, was able to hear from Environmental NGO representatives personally when he hosted a meeting in July, which included the UK Tar Sands Network.

I hope this clarifies the Government's position on these matters.



**BARONESS KRAMER**