

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th October 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: BIOMASS

Thank you for contacting me about biomass.

Using this fuel source can help the UK decarbonise its electricity supplies but the Government has made clear, through its Bioenergy Strategy, that only biomass from sustainable sources should be used. New biomass sustainability criteria have already been announced that are amongst the toughest in the world, and Ministers are looking to strengthen this even further.

Under these rules, bioenergy suppliers must report on the sustainability of their operations if they want to claim Government support under the Renewables Obligation or the Renewable Heat Incentive. Any generators that do not comply with strict sustainability criteria will lose this financial support.

I am aware of particular concerns regarding the sustainability of wood pellets imported from North America, so I was pleased to hear that in July 2014 the Government launched a new scientific 'biomass calculator' that will help investigate this issue. The research does show that responsibly sourced biomass can be used in a sustainable manner, and this tool will help ensure that only this low-carbon biomass is used in the UK.

I hope you will find this information reassuring. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.