

4th July 2007.

Rt.Hon. John Hutton MP
Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET.

Refused to answer on the grounds of security. Basically, he doesn't have an answer. In June 2008 (twelve months later) a report was published on North Sea Oil and was published in 'The Oil Drum' it proves they had no idea of what our true position was in 2007 otherwise they would have acted more quickly.

Copy (No reply to question as yet 31st December 2008)

Dear Minister,

Firstly, congratulations on your new appointment I hope things go well for you.

I have been concerned for some time about the possibility of long-term oil shortages and its affect on everyday goods such as food for human and animal consumption including domestic pets and other commodities such as shampoos, disinfectants, liquid detergents, soup, baked beans, tinned fruit etc. Oil has, according to some academics, either peaked or is about to peak. With the increase in terrorism and other unrest throughout the world should something catastrophic happen to cause a long-term or even permanent reduction in oil production or supply of oil to Europe and in particular the UK what contingency plans does the government have in place to ensure that supplies of oil to manufacture plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans, glass jars that we take for granted today is sustained? Bio fuel is obviously not the answer and although we may be able to produce energy from wind, wave and solar power you cannot produce the goods that everyone requires without oil it is vital to our everyday needs.

Could you let me know what would be the priority order for the supply distribution of the oil that is available, from the following?

Defence (army, navy air force),

Emergency transport (ambulances, fire brigades, police, railways, buses)
Medication

Energy for industry and domestic use, (power stations) cars

Manufacturing industries (steel, mining, water & sewage, computer industry, double glazing etc)

Transportation of goods, (food, & beverages, paint, flour, timber etc)

Manufacturing of packaging (plastic bottles, plastic trays for meat, medication, pet foods including even plastic trays for wild bird foods, vegetables, fruit and other products, metal cans both steel and aluminium for baked beans, soup, beverages etc, glass jars for jams, coffee, sauces etc)

Of the thousands of items that would be affected by a downturn in oil production I have listed approximately thirty, which of these items would get priority and what priority rating, if any, would be given to the manufacture of metal, plastic and glass packaging on a scale rating of 1-30? It is not a catch question; this is a serious request for information on where the government would place packaging in its list of priorities. Has the government even considered whether packaging has any priority and does any particular type of packaging take precedent over any other?

People have become so accustomed to being able to pick up everything they want at a supermarket and if they can't get their favourite shampoo, jam, marmalade, pet food, soup etc due to a shortage of packaging materials there will be chaos in supermarkets similar to those we have seen in when there has been a fuel shortage. Queues of people, some getting violent, and if they can't get what they want those who have some supplies will inflate prices even for something as trivial as a plastic bottle. The public will then ask, "what is the government doing about it, why didn't they warn us and why didn't they take steps to reduce the impact of shortages?"

I have been interested in this potential problem for nearly three years and enclosed are three papers "Bad Mileage" based on the work of Professor Jeff Dukes, [Oil Depletion Protocol](#) by Dr Colin Cambell and EWG report, which emphasises that we should be cutting back on the production of plastics as much as possible due to the harmful pollution caused.

I have written to your colleague Hilary Benn and sent him a copy of this letter so there is no need to pass the letter to him (or any other department for reply) because he will most probably try to pass his letter to you. It is your opinion as Secretary of State for the DTI I am requesting because fuel supply is within your jurisdiction; I look forward to receiving your reply that I hope will not politically evasive, via my MP John Penrose. **Your reply will be made public to those interested in packaging.**

Yours sincerely,

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G.J.Evans (Mr)

cc. Rt.Hon. Hilary Benn MP

John Penrose MP