



Lisa Mullan  
Ofreg  
Queen's House  
14 Queen Street  
Belfast  
BT1 6ED

Date: 28 April 2006

Dear Lisa,

**Re: Maximising Customer Value: Options for Northern Ireland Energy Holdings**

firmus energy welcomes this opportunity to respond to Ofreg's consultation paper re: the above.

Given that any Renewable Equity Funding, (REF), will be targeted towards renewable projects only, firmus energy does not have any specific comment to make.

However, should the REF's project criteria be reviewed, sometime in the future, for example, by embracing gas related projects, firmus energy would be keen to discuss this with Ofreg. Indeed, by widening the scope of the REF this could help to dovetail into Government's environmental strategy by promoting renewables alongside natural gas, where available.

Natural gas has helped to deliver significant carbon savings, being the most environmentally friendly fossil fuel. Therefore, should funding be targeted differently, in the future, firmus energy would be keen to consider schemes that could encourage combined heat and power (CHP) projects, or indeed, prompt new gas customers to install high efficiency condensing boilers.

Should you wish to discuss any of the points raised, please feel free to contact me direct.

Yours sincerely,

*Michael*

Michael Scott  
Regulatory Affairs Manager