



House of Commons
Business, Enterprise and
Regulatory Reform Committee

**The work of the
Committee in 2007**

First Report of Session 2007–08

Report, together with formal minutes

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be printed 15 January 2008*

HC 233

Published on 23 January 2008
by authority of the House of Commons
London: The Stationery Office Limited
£0.00

The Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform Committee

The Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department of Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform.

Current membership

Peter Luff MP (*Conservative, Mid Worcestershire*) (Chairman)
Mr Adrian Bailey MP (*Labour, West Bromwich West*)
Roger Berry MP (*Labour, Kingswood*)
Mr Brian Binley MP (*Conservative, Northampton South*)
Mr Michael Clapham MP (*Labour, Barnsley West and Penistone*)
Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP (*Labour, Chorley*)
Mark Hunter MP (*Liberal Democrat, Cheadle*)
Miss Julie Kirkbride MP (*Conservative, Bromsgrove*)
Anne Moffat MP (*Labour, East Lothian*)
Mr Mike Weir MP (*Scottish National Party, Angus*)
Mr Anthony Wright MP (*Labour, Great Yarmouth*)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/parliamentary_committees

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/berr.cfm

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Eve Samson (Clerk), David Slater (Second Clerk), Robert Cope (Committee Specialist), Ian Townsend (Inquiry Manager), Anita Fuki (Committee Assistant), Jim Hudson (Senior Office Clerk) and Lorna Horton (Committee Secretary).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerks of the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5777; the Committee's email address is berrcom@parliament.uk

Contents

Report	<i>Page</i>
1 Introduction	3
Working methods	5
2 The Committees' work in 2007	6
The Core Tasks	7
Objective A: to examine and comment on the policy of the Department	8
Objectives B and C: to examine the expenditure and administration of the Department	9
Objective D: to assist the House in debate and discussion	12
The 'Quadripartite Committee'	12
Formal Minutes	14
Appendix 1: Departmental Select Committee Objectives and Tasks	15
Objective A: to examine and comment on the policy of the Department	15
Objective B: to examine the expenditure of the Department.	15
Objective C: to examine the administration of the Department	15
Objective D: to assist the House in debate and discussion.	15
Appendix 2: List of BERR Associated Public Bodies	16
Annex: Reports published in 2006–07	18

1 Introduction

1. The Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee began its existence only at the beginning of the current session, on 6 November 2007. It was formed in response to machinery of government changes in June 2007 which replaced the then Department of Trade and Industry with a new Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), created “to give business a strong voice at the heart of government”.¹ The new department has many of the core functions of the old Department of Trade and Industry, although the science budget and some aspects of innovation policy have been transferred to the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. BERR retains its role in trade, although the Department for International Development’s role has increased in this area. The Department retains responsibility for energy policy. It has gained responsibility for Regulatory Reform, and sponsorship of the Better Regulation Executive has been transferred to it from the Cabinet Office. Although some responsibilities have been transferred away from the Department it is clear that its core function as the department for industry remains. The Prime Minister has described its task as being to act as a conduit of businesses’ legitimate concerns “about a whole range of issues – the UK’s skills base, translating science into successful innovation, future transport infrastructure, reliable and affordable energy, regulatory burdens of the planning regime.”² More details about the new Department are given in paragraphs 18 to 20 below.

2. When the necessary Standing Order changes were agreed on 25 July 2007, the House took account of the continuities between the new department and the old, and provided that “all proceedings of the Trade and Industry Committee in this Parliament shall be deemed to have been proceedings of the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee.” This Report accordingly treats the work of the Trade and Industry Committee from January to November 2007 as if it formed part of the work of the current Committee. As part of the Standing Order changes, the Committee was reduced from 14 members to 11 members. There was a regrettable and avoidable delay in the nomination of the new Committee which caused considerable uncertainty and threatened to disrupt the work of the Committee seriously. In the end the delay was only of one week and only one evidence session was cancelled, but we hope when this or other committees face similar changes in the future such uncertainty will be avoided. In the event, all but one of the new Committee were former members of the Trade and Industry Committee, which means that our collective knowledge remains, and the reduction in numbers may well enable us to function more effectively in future. Nonetheless, we regret that valuable colleagues are no longer members of the Committee, and put on record our appreciation of the contributions made by Mr Peter Bone, Mrs Claire Curtis-Thomas, Judy Mallaber and Mr Rob Marris.³

1 Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *Our Commitment to Business*, November 2007, foreword by the Prime Minister

2 Ibid.

3 Mr Adrian Bailey has been added to the Committee.

3. During the year the Committees⁴ published 13 reports and held three ‘one-off’ evidence sessions, in addition to work on continuing inquiries. Part of this work was undertaken with the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees, and is described in more detail in paragraphs 24 and 25 below. The Trade and Industry Committee also appointed a sub-committee to inquire into the *Implementation of the Report of the Women and Work Commission*, and its report to the main Committee awaits consideration by the new Committee. An outline of the entire programme is set out in Table 1 below. Publication details of our reports can be found in the list at the back of this volume.

Table 1: Summary of the Committees’ work in 2007

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Evidence Sessions in 2007</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Local energy - turning consumers into producers	See note	Report, January 2007
Post Office Network	1	Two reports, April 2007 and May 2007
Success and failure in the UK car manufacturing industry	See note	Report, March 2007
The future of UK manufacturing (skills, UKTI and public procurement)	7	Three reports, April 2007, May 2007 and November 2007 respectively
Trade with Brazil and Mercosur	3	Report, July 2007
Recent Developments with Airbus	2	Report, May 2007
Strategic Export Controls: 2007 Review	3	Report, August 2007 (joint inquiry with Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees)
Europe moves East: The impact of the 'New' EU Member States on UK business	5	Report, October 2007
The work of the Office of Fair Trading	2	Report, October 2007
Implementation of the Report of the Women and Work Commission	5	Report agreed by Sub-committee, to be agreed by full Committee
Ofcom Annual Plan 2007–08	1	Evidence, April 2007
Industrial action at Royal Mail	1	Evidence, October 2007
The work of the Minister for Trade and Investment	1	Evidence, October 2007
The UK Construction Industry	4	Inquiry to be continued in 2008
Trade with India: One year on	1	Inquiry to be continued in 2008

Note – evidence for these reports taken in 2006

4 The plural form is used to cover proceedings of both the Trade and Industry Committee and the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee.

4. Our first task as a new committee was to consider whether or not to continue with the programme established by the former Trade and Industry Committee. We decided to continue with its work, which included a major new inquiry into construction, and inquiries into trade with Turkey; the higher value-added economy and an update on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Trade and Industry Committee's June 2006 Report on *Trade and Investment Opportunities with India*.⁵ Since then we have added a review of the way in which the Post Office closure programme has been implemented, and a wider look at trade policy. We have sought evidence on these topics and work will begin in 2008.

Working methods

5. The Trade and Industry Committee expected to keep particular subjects under long-term review, and follow up its inquiries. For example, its work on the Post Office and the Royal Mail built on a series of reports published over at least a decade. In addition, the Committee would take evidence to ensure that it was up-to-date with particular topics, without necessarily issuing a subsequent report. For example, we held an evidence session with the Secretary of State on the industrial action at Royal Mail.⁶ We will continue to take such a long view, and to monitor developments in the light of previous work. This is true in other areas of our work too—the Trade and Industry Committee took evidence on the Energy White Paper in October 2006,⁷ and we will keep a watching brief on the Energy Bill, expected in early 2008, during its course through Parliament.

6. We will also continue the previous Committee's efforts to ensure that our work is focused on issues which matter to business and the public. There were consultations with industry representatives at the outset of the inquiry into manufacturing, to make sure the terms of reference dealt with matters which were of genuine concern. This interaction with witnesses has continued, and the evidence sessions for our wide-ranging inquiry into construction have been shaped by informal conversations with witnesses to ensure that our staff are aware of which issues they consider most important and can brief us accordingly. During the year we introduced witness feedback forms, as part of a wider initiative from the Liaison Committee. The feedback we have received about our treatment of witnesses, the briefing they receive and committee proceedings has been uniformly positive. Indeed, one witness went so far as to say "From my perspective, it was a valuable and well conducted session".

7. Our work is made easier by many people. We are grateful to all those who give formal evidence, particularly those for whom it is an unfamiliar experience. We also take this opportunity to thank the Parliamentary Branch of the former Department of Trade and Industry, now reformed in BERR, and the Department as a whole. There are occasions when submissions are delayed, or things go wrong in other ways, but it is a tribute to their efficiency and the Department's engagement with our work, that, unlike many other select committees, we almost invariably receive responses to our reports within or close to the two-month deadline. We are also extremely grateful to those who give informal briefings to

5 Third Report of Session 2005-06, HC 881-I

6 Oral evidence taken on 22 October 2007, HC (2006-07) 1090-i

7 See Oral and Written Evidence, *UK dependence on gas and coal imports*, HC 1123i-vii and HC 1316-I, and Oral evidence, *Energy White Paper*, HC 756-i

us or to the Committee staff, and to the many people who deal with our visits in the United Kingdom and overseas. Such co-operation is essential to our work and we are especially grateful to all the staff of UKTI and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, whose cheerful assistance has again been invaluable.

2 The Committees' work in 2007

8. Standing Order No. 152 requires us to “examine the expenditure, administration and policy” of the Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform. Like all departmental select committees, the Committee works within the framework of the core tasks set by the Liaison Committee. The tasks themselves are appended to this report. The way in which the Committees' work on particular inquiries addressed those tasks is summarised in Table 2. Our aim is to ensure that we scrutinise the work of the Department, and associated bodies, while also taking a broader look at particular subjects to ensure that we are able to intervene if it becomes appropriate. Our job is not to audit the Department: the National Audit Office exists to perform that function. Nor is it simply to take the Department's policies as given, and examine how efficiently and effectively they are implemented, although that is part of our role. Government cannot single-handedly produce the conditions necessary for economic success or social well being, and knowledge of the wider context is essential to assess Government's actions or overall approach. Two key tasks are to examine departmental and EU policy and, where necessary, to inquire further, and to look at policy deficiencies and make proposals. Accordingly, in most of our inquiries we seek to explore the wider picture, rather than taking the official analysis as given. Although most of our conclusions and recommendations are aimed at central Government, we deal with other bodies which spend public money or provide public services.

9. We do not believe we would serve the House effectively if we took too narrow an approach to our work. We have, on occasion, felt it necessary to bring ourselves and our Parliamentary colleagues up-to-date with developments in particular industries or even particular companies, such as in our report on *Success and failure in the UK car manufacturing industry*.⁸ On occasion, we have had reason to criticise particular individuals or companies, and some have objected to this. However, the privilege of freedom of speech exists because it is recognized that there is public interest in a forum in which elected representatives can discuss matters of public concern and public policy without fear of legal interference. It is important that Committees and individual Members exercise this privilege responsibly. It is equally important that they are free to say what they wish when they consider it appropriate. While we intend to continue our predecessors' example of courteous engagement with witnesses, we will not be inhibited from critical comment when we believe it is in the public interest for such comments to be made.

The Core Tasks

Table 2: Analysis of programme by core tasks

<i>Subject</i>	Departmental policy	Examination of deficiencies	Documents and decisions	Expenditure	PSAs	Regulators and Agencies	Legislation and initiatives
Local energy- turning consumers into producers	✓	✓		✓			✓
Post Office Network	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Success and failure in the UK car manufacturing industry	✓	✓					
The future of UK manufacturing: public procurement	✓	✓		✓			✓
The future of UK manufacturing: skills shortages	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
The future of UK manufacturing: Marketing UK plc: UKTI's five-year strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Trade with Brazil and Mercosur		✓			✓	✓	✓
Recent developments with Airbus	✓		✓				
Strategic Export Controls: 2007 Review	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Europe moves East: the impact of the 'New' EU Member States on UK business	✓	✓					✓
The work of the Office of Fair Trading			✓			✓	
Implementation of the Report of the Women and Work Commission	✓						✓
Ofcom Annual Plan 2007–08		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Industrial action at Royal Mail	✓		✓				
The work of the Minister for Trade and Investment	✓		✓	✓	✓		
The UK Construction Industry	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Trade with India: One year on		✓			✓	✓	✓

10. As can be seen from the table above, a single inquiry may relate to several of the core tasks. The tasks themselves are intended to ensure that Committees meet four broad

objectives, and rather than go through each task exhaustively, we describe below how these objectives were met.

Objective A: to examine and comment on the policy of the Department

Manufacturing

11. The Committee conducted a major inquiry into the future of UK manufacturing. The seven evidence sessions led to three separate reports. The first, on skills, looked at the skills needed in manufacturing, and drew attention to the need to ensure a well-trained, highly skilled workforce.⁹ The second looked at the role of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the Government's export and inward investment promotion body.¹⁰ The third looked at the ways in which public procurement could be used to foster a strong and innovative manufacturing base, and suggested ways in which procurement policy might be improved.¹¹ In addition to this general work, we looked at challenges facing Airbus, and the ambitious restructuring programme the company has implemented to meet them, in *Recent developments with Airbus*.¹²

Trade

12. The Trade and Industry Committee has had a sustained interest in trade—both trade policy as a whole, and the way in which trade and investment links with particular countries can best be encouraged. In addition to the report on UKTI noted above, the Committee looked at the impact of the 'new' EU Member States on UK business¹³ and trade with Brazil and Mercosur;¹⁴ it is also reviewing the state of trade with India, one year on from the Trade and Industry Committee's major inquiry into that subject. In addition, we held an evidence session with the new Minister for Trade and Investment, and have asked him to update the Committee regularly about his forthcoming programme and the outcome of his visits. In early 2008 we held a further session with the Minister for Trade and Investment and the Minister for Trade and Development, who is a Minister in both BERR and DfID. We expect to continue this work with a wider inquiry into trade in the New Year.

Visits

13. The Committee complemented the evidence taken in its inquiry into *Europe moves East* with brief visits to Lithuania, Hungary and Slovakia. These visits provided us with information which cannot be gathered in the United Kingdom and we found them invaluable.

9 Fifth Report of Session 2006-07, *Better Skills for Manufacturing*, HC 493-I

10 Sixth Report of Session 2006-07, *Marketing UK plc – UKTI's five-year strategy*, HC 557

11 Thirteenth Report of Session 2006-07, *The future of UK manufacturing: public procurement*, HC 1109

12 Ninth Report of Session 2006-07, HC 427-I

13 Eleventh Report of Session 2006-07, *Europe moves East: The impact of the 'New' EU Member States on UK business*, HC 592

14 Seventh Report of Session 2006-07, *Trade with Brazil and Mercosur*, HC 201-I

14. We also continued the practice of an annual visit to Brussels. This gives us the opportunity to discuss developments in energy, trade and a range of industry issues in the European Union. It also allows us to identify issues which are likely to become prominent in future, and to shape our programme accordingly.

Post Office and Royal Mail

15. Over the years, the Trade and Industry Committee has engaged with a series of government proposals for reform or restructuring of Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd. This year was no exception. We undertook two inquiries into the Government's proposals for reducing the Post Office network. Although we reluctantly accepted that some reduction in the network was inevitable, we were concerned that the proposed criteria for ensuring access to post offices in future were overly rigid; that there appeared to be no clear rationale for the number of the proposed reductions; and that the proposals did not explain how the access criteria would be maintained in the face of future unplanned, uncompensated closures. The Government has made some changes in response to our criticisms, but many questions remain unanswered. The closure programme has now begun, and early in 2008 we will be undertaking a short inquiry to look at its progress, and, if necessary, make recommendations about how the process can be improved.

Objectives B and C: to examine the expenditure and administration of the Department

Scrutiny of the Department and its associated public bodies

16. We monitored the expenditure of the Department of Trade and Industry during the year, and raised some issues on the Estimates for BERR in correspondence with the Department.

Department of Trade and Industry Annual Report

17. Most significantly, we agreed that the Departmental Annual Report could be combined with the Resource Account into a single volume giving a consolidated overview of the Department's performance. The combined report and resource accounts for the Department of Trade and Industry is an impressively comprehensive document, and, in our view, an improvement on earlier reports.¹⁵ However, this has been a year of radical machinery of government changes. It is too early to say whether the fact that a combined document necessarily emerges later in the financial cycle than the Annual Report it replaced will have any adverse impact on our ability to consider the Estimates in normal years. We will consider this in the light of experience over the coming year.

The new Department

18. We took evidence from the new Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the Report and Accounts of the previous Department, and on his plans for the future. In this session, we were particularly interested in the Public Service

15 Department of Trade and Industry, *Annual Report and Accounts, 2006–07*, HC 584, July 2007

Agreements (PSAs) for the new Department, and their relationship to previous PSAs. We note that the PSA system has changed so that the Agreements cover outcomes which can only be achieved by cross-departmental collaboration. The new Department leads on three PSAs, which we summarise below:

- PSA1: Raise the productivity of the UK economy:
 - i. Raise the rate of the UK's productivity growth over the economic cycle;
 - ii. Narrow the productivity gap with our major industrial competitors.¹⁶
- PSA6: Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK:
 - i. Provide a competition regime independently ranked among the world's best;
 - ii. Deliver a corporate governance and legal framework at the level of the world's best;
 - iii. Raise participation rates and ensure UK labour market flexibility;
 - iv. Maintain competitively-priced energy markets;
 - v. Deliver better regulation;
 - vi. Deliver significant improvements to the administration of tax regimes that affect business.¹⁷
- PSA7: Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions:
 - i. Maintain macroeconomic stability to help businesses and individuals plan for the future;
 - ii. Implement microeconomic reforms to tackle market failures in the underlying drivers of growth—skills, investment, enterprise, competition, innovation and employment;
 - iii. Devolve decision making to the regional and local levels to ensure that policy design and delivery is responsive to the particular opportunities and challenges of each area.¹⁸

19. BERR is a 'key delivery partner' for three further PSAs:

- PSA 2: Improve the skills of the population on the way, to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020;
- PSA 8: Maximise employment opportunity for all;

16 Summarised from HM Government, *PSA Delivery Agreement 1: Raise the productivity of the UK economy*, October 2007

17 Summarised from HM Government, *PSA Delivery Agreement 6: Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK*, October 2007

18 Summarised from HM Government, *PSA Delivery Agreement 7: Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions*, October 2007

- PSA 27: Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change.¹⁹

It has set itself the following Departmental Strategic Objectives:

- Promote the creation and growth of business and a strong enterprise economy across all regions;
- Ensure that all Government departments and agencies deliver better regulation for the private, public and third sectors;
- Deliver free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees;
- Ensure the reliable supply and efficient use of clean, safe and competitively priced energy;
- Manage energy liabilities effectively and responsibly;
- Ensure that Government acts as an effective and intelligent shareholder, and provide a source of excellent corporate finance expertise within Government; and
- Provide the professional support, capability and infrastructure to enable BERR's objectives and programmes to be successfully delivered.²⁰

We expect to do further work on these PSAs and Objectives in the coming year.

Associated Public Bodies

20. In addition to monitoring the work of the central department, the core tasks include monitoring the work of the Department's Executive Agencies, non-departmental public bodies, regulators and other associated public bodies. There were about 50 such associated with the Department of Trade and Industry. There are over 40 such bodies associated with BERR. In previous years the Cabinet Office has produced a consolidated list of Public Bodies. This responsibility has now been devolved to departments, and although they are encouraged to print the lists with their Annual Reports, they are not obliged to do so. **We urge BERR to include a list of all the public bodies associated with it in its Annual Report, so that it is possible to trace changes in the Department's responsibilities over the course of time.** However, since the list of bodies associated with BERR cannot be printed until its Annual Report appears, we have appended it to this Report.

21. Some of these bodies were examined in the course of inquiries into particular subjects; for example, we have already noted that one of the reports which resulted from our manufacturing inquiry concentrated on the work of UKTI. Our work on the Post Office considered the future merger of Postwatch and the National Consumer Council.²¹ Obviously, it is neither possible nor necessary for us to take evidence on, or from, each of the Department's associated public bodies every year, but we try to examine one or two

¹⁹ See Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *Autumn Performance Report 2007*, December 2007, para 231.

²⁰ *Ibid*, para 233.

²¹ Third Report of Session 2006–07, *Stamp of Approval? Restructuring the Post Office network*, HC 276 and Eighth Report of Session 2006–07, *Restructuring the Post Office Network*, HC 593

such bodies each year, in addition to those which are dealt with in particular inquiries. However, given the importance of telecommunication issues, once again, we held a joint session with the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on the Annual Plan of the media and telecommunications regulator, Ofcom.²² We also conducted an inquiry into the work of the Office of Fair Trading.

Objective D: to assist the House in debate and discussion

22. Our reports themselves provide material for our colleagues, but sometimes we are involved in Parliamentary proceedings more directly. There have been two debates on Committee reports in Westminster Hall in the last year. The Fourth Report of Session 2005-06, *New Nuclear? Examining the issues* was debated on 19 April 2007.²³ This was particularly timely, coming a month before the Government published its Energy White Paper, including a consultation on new nuclear build. Our two reports on Post Office restructuring were debated on 29 November. This debate was one of the most heavily subscribed ever to take place in Westminster Hall.

23. The core task properly concentrates on what Committees can bring to proceedings in the House. However, we also use information from proceedings, and concerns raised in the House, as part of our work. We will build on Members' contributions in our forthcoming follow-up inquiry into the Post Office closure programme. As a first step we have written to all Members for constituencies where consultations on specific proposals for closures have begun to seek their views on the process.

The 'Quadripartite Committee'

24. We continued our contribution to the 'Quadripartite' Committee, which is chaired by one of our Members, Roger Berry. This Committee is composed of members of our committee, meeting together with the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees. It carries out detailed scrutiny of the Government's controls on exports of equipment and technology with a military application. In 2006-07 the Quadripartite Committee carried out a wider than usual inquiry when it examined the operation of the Export Control Act 2002 and the orders made under the Act. In August the four constituent Committees reported the Quadripartite Committee's work as *The Strategic Export Controls: 2007 Review*—published as our Tenth Report. In the course of the Quadripartite Committee's inquiry it visited the Export Control Organisation at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and took oral evidence from the Department for International Development for the first time, as well as its customary evidence from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office.

25. The Quadripartite Committee's work continued the Committees' interest in a range of issues, including: post-legislative scrutiny of export control legislation which will contribute to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Review of

22 Oral and Written evidence taken before the Culture, Media and Sport Committee and Trade and Industry Committee on 17 April 2007, HC 459-i

23 Fourth Report of Session 2005-06, *New Nuclear? Examining the issues*, HC 1112

the operation of the Export Control Act 2002; possible changes to the rules on intra-European Community transfers of defence products; the need to tighten controls on those selling and brokering arms; the need for better enforcement of the export control rules at arms fairs; and the need for better outreach to industry to prevent inadvertent export of goods subject to export control. It demonstrated that Government policy can only be properly assessed by taking a wide view of the issues involved, and that committees work most effectively when they are able to build on their work over a sustained period.

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 15 January 2008

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Mr Adrian Bailey

Roger Berry

Mr Brian Binley

Mr Michael Clapham

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Anne Moffat

Mr Mike Weir

Mr Anthony Wright

Draft Report (The Work of the Committee in 2007), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 25 read and agreed to.

Annex read and agreed to.

Two Papers were appended to the Report as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 January at 10.15 am

Appendix 1: Departmental Select Committee Objectives and Tasks

Objective A: to examine and comment on the policy of the Department

Task 1 to examine policy proposals from the UK Government and the European Commission in Green Papers, White Papers, draft Guidance etc, and to inquire further where the Committee considers it appropriate.

Task 2 to identify and examine areas of emerging policy, or where existing policy is deficient, and make proposals.

Task 3 to conduct scrutiny of any published draft bill within the Committee's responsibilities.

Task 4 to examine specific output from the Department expressed in documents or other decisions.

Objective B: to examine the expenditure of the Department.

Task 5 to examine the expenditure plans and out-turn of the Department, its agencies and principal non-departmental public bodies.

Objective C: to examine the administration of the Department

Task 6 to examine the Department's Public Service Agreements, the associated targets and the statistical measurements employed, and report if appropriate.

Task 7 to monitor the work of the Department's executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies, regulators and other associated public bodies.

Task 8 to scrutinise major appointments made by the Department.

Task 9 to examine the implementation of legislation and major policy initiatives.

Objective D: to assist the House in debate and discussion.

Task 10 to produce Reports which are suitable for debate in the House, including Westminster Hall, or debating committees.

Appendix 2: List of BERR Associated Public Bodies

A full list²⁴ of the delivery partners of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is set out below.

It covers BERR's agencies, executive non-departmental public bodies, advisory non-departmental public bodies, and other key partners.

Executive Agencies

Companies House
The Insolvency Service

Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies

ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service)
Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA)
Coal Authority
Consumer Council for Postal Service (CCPS) (Postwatch)
Competition Commission
Competition Service
Gas & Electricity Consumer Council (GESS) (Energywatch)
Hearing Aid Council
Local Better Regulation Office
National Consumer Council (NCC)
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Regional Development Agencies
 Advantage West Midlands (AWM)
 East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
 East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
 North West Development Agency (NWRDA)
 One North East (ONE)
 South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
 South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
 Yorkshire Forward
SITPRO - Simplifying International Trade
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)

Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies
Better Relation Commission

24 <http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategy-objectives/The%20BERR%20family/index.html>

Fuel Poverty Advisory Group
 Industrial Development Advisory Board
 Low Pay Commission
 Regional Industrial Development Boards (RIDB)
 Renewables Advisory Board
 Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board
 UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee

Tribunals

Central Arbitration Committee (CAC)
 Competition Appeal Tribunal
 Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal
 Persons Hearing Consumer Credit Licensing Appeals
 Persons Hearing Estate Agent Appeals

Public Corporations

British Energy Group plc
 British Nuclear Fuels Plc (BNFL)
 British Shipbuilders
 Office of Communications (Ofcom)
 Royal Mail Holdings Plc

Central Government Organisations

Nuclear Liabilities Fund (company limited by shares)

Non-Ministerial Departments

Office of Fair Trading (OFT)
 The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem)
 The Postal Services Commission (Postcomm)

Local Authorities

London Development Agency

Other Bodies

Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a department outside BERR that also reports to the Secretary of State for BERR
 Financial Reporting Council (FRC)
 Citizens Advice Bureaux

Annex: Reports published in 2006–07

Session 2006-07

First Special Report (Published 18.1.07)	Royal Mail Group: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2005-06	HC 230
Second Special Report (22.5.07)	Local energy – turning consumers into producers: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2006-07	HC 494
Third Special Report (15.6.07)	Success and failure in the UK car manufacturing industry: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2006-07	HC 598
Fourth Special Report (10.7.07)	Better skills for manufacturing: Government Response to Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2006-07	HC 845
Fifth Special Report (26.7.07)	Marketing UK Plc – UKTI's five-year strategy: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2006-07	HC 981
Sixth Special Report (26.7.07)	Trade with Brazil and Mercosur: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2006-07	HC 982
Seventh Special Report (26.10.07)	Restructuring the Post Office Network: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2006-07	HC 1083
Eighth Special Report (26.10.07)	Recent developments with Airbus: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2006-07	HC 1084
First Report (30.1.07)	Local energy - turning consumers into producers	HC 257
Second Report (28.2.07)	The Work of the Committee in 2005-06	HC 332
Third Report (12.4.07)	Stamp of Approval? Restructuring the Post Office network	HC 276
Fourth Report (29.3.07)	Success and failure in the UK car manufacturing industry	HC 399
Fifth Report (7.5.07)	Better Skills for Manufacturing	HC 493-I
Sixth Report (6.6.07)	Marketing UK plc – UKTI's five-year strategy	HC 557
Seventh Report (13.6.07)	Trade with Brazil and Mercosur	HC 201-I
Eighth Report (9.6.07)	Restructuring the Post Office Network	HC 593
Ninth Report (26.6.07)	Recent developments with Airbus	HC 427-I
Tenth Report (7.8.07)	Strategic Export Controls: 2007 Review	HC 117
Eleventh Report (18.10.07)	Europe moves East: The impact of the 'New' EU Member States on UK business	HC 592
Twelfth Report (24.10.07)	The work of the Office of Fair Trading	HC 591
Thirteenth Report (8.11.07)	The future of UK manufacturing: public procurement	HC 1109

