

**ALISTAIR DARLING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE
AND INDUSTRY**

22nd FEBRUARY 2007

ENERGY POLICY AND NUCLEAR POWER

1. I would like to make a statement about the White Paper on energy policy following the court judgement on 15 February about the consultation process on nuclear energy that preceded the Energy Review Report published on 11 July 2006 (www.dti.gov.uk/files/file31890.pdf).
2. The court ruled that the consultation exercise that preceded the publication of the Energy Review report had not been adequate. The Government accepts the court's judgement and will not appeal it.
3. We shall therefore conduct a new consultation endeavouring to meet the court's requirements. It is now likely that the White Paper and the new consultation will be published in early May. However, if it can be published before Easter, I will do so.
4. We continue to believe, subject of course to consultation, there is a case for having new nuclear power stations as one of the options companies should consider because of their potentially significant contribution to security of supply and reducing carbon emissions. Last week's court judgment does not undermine this view. The

consultation document will bring together the evidence and analysis we have collected and published since the Energy Review began in November 2005, so that people can take an informed view on whether nuclear power should continue to be part of our energy mix. This will enable the government to make a decision on nuclear, and on certain other issues arising from the White Paper, in the Autumn. I will keep the House informed.