

## Brief for Malcolm Wicks Visit to Flamanville and Cap La Hague – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2006

REDACTED MATERIAL

### Lines to Take

#### Lines to Take on Energy Review

- The Review will be considering a wide range of options to help the UK meet its medium and long-term energy policy goals as set out in the EWP. It will be bringing forward policy proposals later in 2006.
- We remain committed to the framework for our energy policy that we set out in the EWP. The Review is looking at options to help the UK meet our medium and long-term goals. In the meantime, we will continue to pursue policies to help us meet our energy objectives.
- It is an energy review and not a nuclear review – it has a broad scope and we are considering both aspects of energy supply and demand, looking at the role of energy efficiency and transport.
- We have just finished the public phase of the Review. Our public consultation closed before Easter. We are not yet bringing forward policy proposals at this time and are now analysing the information that the consultation has brought forward
- The consultation was an opportunity to engage everyone in these complex and inter-related issues. It is a chance for serious debate based on facts and evidence – we genuinely have an open mind on solutions and want to debate these issues seriously.
- No decisions have been taken on the outcome of the Review. The technical issues around the long-term management of current high and intermediate level waste and waste expected to arise from a nuclear build programme are being considered by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). CoRWM is expected to report in July 2006.
- We cannot pre-empt the outcome of the review. As the Prime Minister emphasised, we need to undertake a full assessment of all the options for helping the UK deliver our long-term energy white paper goals. This will include an assessment of nuclear, which will of course consider issues relating to cost, public acceptability, skills and capacity and waste. It is important to emphasise that we remain neutral on nuclear. We have by no means taken **any** decisions at this time.
- This visit is an excellent opportunity for us to gather information and evidence on the nuclear question to help inform our policy considerations later this year.

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