

Gregory Barker MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place

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Our ref:

Your ref:

Clive Efford Esq MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 November 2010

Dear Clive,

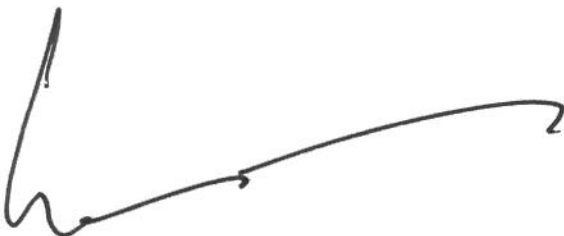
Thank you for your question in the House of Commons last week on the Green Investment Bank. I am afraid that I misnamed one of the bodies I referred to in my answer.

As recorded in Hansard 11 Nov 2010 : Column 412, I referred to the "energy strategy board" but I should have said the "Environmental Transformation Fund".

Please accept my apologies.

I am copying this letter to Christopher Pincher MP who also asked a question during the session on this subject, and I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library for other honourable Members' information.

Yours ever,



Green Investment Bank

13. **Clive Efford (Eltham) (Lab):** What discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the lending practices to be adopted by the proposed green investment bank. [23157]

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): The Secretary of State and I are in regular and close contact with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and other ministerial colleagues. Following the spending review announcement, the Government aim to complete the design and testing work for the function and form of the GIB by spring 2011.

Clive Efford: How does the Minister intend to advise the bank on its functions when investing in essential green industry development? In particular, if we are looking for winners when investing in new innovation, we might miss the opportunity to provide seedcorn investment, which might then be taken up by other countries. It is essential that we look into investment in new technologies and that we do not miss these opportunities.

Gregory Barker: There are obviously other ways of investing in new technologies, including through the energy strategy board, and the coalition has made an absolute commitment to push forward a range of technologies. The GIB is about crowding in private sector investment into a viable green economy.

Christopher Pincher (Tamworth) (Con): Does the Minister agree with me, with the chief executive of Greenpeace, John Sauven, and, for that matter, with Andy Atkins of Friends of the Earth, that if the GIB is to be truly successful it must be independent and operate as a proper bank? It must not be seen as a fund or a quango.

Gregory Barker: My hon. Friend makes a good point. It is vital that the new institution, which will be the first of its kind in a modern economy, has the maximum capacity to crowd in private sector capital. As a result, it will need to have many of the functions that he lists.