



Hambleside Danelaw
Building Products

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd
Press Release – 20 February 2007

Treasury minister calls for pre-Budget representations from the building industry

A Treasury minister has told a House of Commons select committee that he would consider representations from the building industry that presented a case for tax incentives to encourage the construction of energy-efficient commercial and public buildings.

The representations are required urgently in advance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget, expected sometime during March. The invitation to make submissions came from the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, John Healey MP, when he appeared before the Environmental Audit Committee to give the Government's views on the Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change.

The minister was responding to an MP's question on whether the Government's decision last December to use the stamp duty regime to encourage the building of zero-carbon homes could be followed by tax incentives in respect of commercial and public buildings.

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd, the environment award-winning building products manufacturer, has made submissions on the issue to the select committee and the Stern review. The Group also met Mr Healey last October to discuss the matter. Its proposals focus principally on reshaping the Industrial Buildings Allowance regime to incentivise sustainable development in the non-domestic building sector.

Robin Jeffery, Hambleside's vice-chairman, said: "It is really encouraging that the select committee took up Hambleside Danelaw's case for new tax incentives to encourage sustainable development. I urge others in the industry to respond to the minister's invitation to submit representations in advance of the Budget. Given that

non-compliance with the energy efficiency provisions in the Building Regulations remains a huge issue, we need a fresh approach.”

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

1. EAC inquiry

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, John Healey MP, gave evidence to the Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) on 31 January. The issue of tax incentives for the construction of energy-efficient commercial and public buildings was raised by Mark Lazarowicz, Labour MP for Edinburgh North and Leith. Copies of the uncorrected transcript of the session can be downloaded from <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmenvaud.htm#uncorr>. (reference: Q168).

2. Stern Review and the building industry

Sir Nicholas Stern’s comments on encouraging energy efficiency in the building industry were contained in chapter 17 of his Review on the Economics of Climate Change, which can be downloaded from: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Independent_Reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm .

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd made two submissions to the Review, considering the various options available for financial incentives, such as reductions in business rates and changes to the Industrial Buildings Allowance. These are available on request.

3. About Hambleside Danelaw Ltd

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd (www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk) manufactures Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) rooflights and other roofing and ventilation products in Daventry and Inverness. As part of the Hambleside Danelaw Group with headquarters in Waterlooville in Hampshire, its turnover is currently in excess of £10 million a year and it employs almost 90 people. The Group was established in 1975 with its first factory at Inverness for manufacturing GRP products becoming operational in 1978. The factory has won three Green Apple Gold awards and VIBES commendations for its efforts to reduce its environmental impact and has attained BS 14001:2004 in recognition of its environmental management systems. In 1992, the company began producing in Daventry non-GRP products primarily for roof and cavity wall ventilation. Last year, the Group won a Business Commitment to the Environment award, presented by David Cameron MP, as well as a Queen’s Award for Enterprise: Innovation for its Insulator GRP thermally efficient rooflight.