

Lloyd Crump, Department of Energy gave the following up-to-date position:

The quality of reporting has varied enormously but the message is there viz. there is no national crisis. Overall the national position of supply and demand is that there is some shortfall but there is enough oil to go round if people behave sensibly. The Department of Energy do not wish to do the oil companies' job for them in sorting out regional problems. The Department expects to take this line for the foreseeable future.

H.G.R.