Facts and Figures

(last updated 20 September 2010)

	Facts and Figures	Reference
Membership		
1	Gas Forum Member Companies employ circa 1 million people worldwide	Gas Forum
2.	Gas Forum Member Companies generate income in excess of £61 billion	Gas Forum
3.	Gas Forum Member Companies invest over £100 bn	Gas Forum
Gas as a fuel source		
4.	Excluding transport, gas provides over 50% of Britain's primary energy needs.	Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2009. Chapter 5
5.	Gas is used to heat two thirds of our homes and businesses.	Heat and Energy Savings Strategy, DECC 2009.
Environmental		
6.	Natural gas is the least polluting fossil fuel.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20mix/Renewable%20energy/Renewable%20Energy%20Strategy/1_20090717120647_e_@@_TheUKRenewableEnergyStrategy2009.pdf
7.	In terms of generation capacity, some 12GW of older coal and oil plant will close by 2015 as it does not meet limits on emissions of acid gases under the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD). A further 7GW of nuclear stations reach the end of their expected operating life by 2018.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20markets/outlook/1_20091216110910_e_@@_energyMarketsOutlook2009.pdf
Gas Demand		
8.	Irish and North Sea gas currently satisfies over 80% of Britain's annual gas demand.	National Grid, Transporting Britain's Energy 2009: Development of Energy

		Scenarios.
9.	Storage capacity can supply up to 20% of GB peak gas demand.	Based on total deliverability of existing GB storage facilities assuming a peak demand of 450 mcm.
10.	Experience of the highest demand period on record in winter 09/10 demonstrates that the market is well equipped to respond efficiently to the wholesale market price signals, either through increased supplies or demand reduction.	Editors notes, DECC Press Release on Gateway storage project, 16 February 2010.
11.	There has been a five-fold increase in GB gas import capacity in the last 10 years creating c126% of UK annual demand. In theory - assuming a reliable upstream supply chain and sufficient transportation infrastructure – this capacity could deliver all of Britain's gas needs.	Editors notes, DECC Press Release on Gateway storage project, 16 February 2010.
14.	In the first quarter of 2010, and for the first time since 1968, gas imports exceeded indigenous production. This was driven by high demand combined with a general decline in UK production.	
15.	In 2008, 34%of natural gas demand (374 TWh) was for electricity generation.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/publications/dukes/1_20090907112952_e_@@_dukes09ch4.pdf
Competition		
16.	Over 75% of domestic customers have changed supplier at least once and the annual average churn rate is over 16%	Ofgem Energy Probe, 2008
17.	Competition has ensured that GB domestic gas customers benefit from some of the lowest prices in Europe	European Commission Energy Portal energy price statistics www.energy.eu/#Domestic
18.	Wholesale market liquidity is high – the ratio of traded volumes to delivered volumes at the National Balancing Point (NBP) is typically around 10.	
19.	Gas sales to the domestic sector rose by 12.9% Industrial sector sales were up by 6.7%, while sales to other final users (public administration, commerce and agriculture) were up by 13.1 % on the first quarter of 2009.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filepath=statistics%2fsource%2fgas%2fet4_1.xls&filetype=4&minwidth=true
Security of Supply		
20.	The proximity of reliable and flexible North Sea supplies means that Britain today requires less storage capacity than France or Germany.	Editors notes, DECC Press Release on Gateway storage project, 16 February 2010.
21.	The National Transmission System (NTS) transports over 60% of Britain's non-transport energy needs.	Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2009. Primary energy including transport is about 40%
22.	Total indigenous UK production of Natural Gas in the first quarter of	http://www.decc.gov.uk/publi

	2010 fell by 9.2% compared with the same period of 2009.	cations/basket.aspx?filepath=statistics%2fsource%2fgas%2fet4_1.xls&filetype=4&minwidth=true
23.	Liquefied Natural Gas accounted for 26.% of gas imports in the first quarter of 2010 compared with 9.4% in the first quarter of 2009.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filepath=statistics%2fsource%2fgas%2fet4_1.xls&filetype=4&minwidth=true
24.	Gas imports were up by 31%, and exports fell by 16.2%.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filepath=statistics%2fsource%2fgas%2fet4_1.xls&filetype=4&minwidth=true
25.	The cost of the NTS represents less than 2% of customer bills.	Ofgem Press Release, Household Bills Explained, August 2009
26.	In 2008, there were 132 Offshore gas fields in production and 3 Offshore gas fields under development	http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/publications/dukes/1_20090923115928_e_@@_dukes09annexf.pdf
27.	At the start of winter 2009/10 the UK had 25% more import capacity than at the start of the previous winter.	http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20markets/outlook/1_20091216110910_e_@@_energyMarketsOutlook2009.pdf
28.	UK gas production continues to decline. DECC's central projection is that UK gas production will fall from 64bcm to around 34bcm by 2020.	
29.	There are a number of potential sources of supply of gas to meet UK gas demand. These include: production from the UKCS; imports by pipeline from Norway; imports from the Continent through the IUK interconnector and BBL pipeline; and imports of LNG by tanker.	
30.	Following a period of significant commercial investment in import infrastructure, import capacity has increased more than five-fold during the last decade, and will be 123 bcm by the start of the coming winter.	
31.	In 2008, UKCS natural gas production was 36% lower than the 2000 peak.	
32.	In 2008, 72% of the UK's gross gas imports were from Norway, up from 70% in 2007. In 2008, 51% of our gas exported was to continental Europe, and 49% to the Republic of Ireland.	