UKIFDA
The Fuel Distribution Association

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

55 Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HP

9th March 2026

Dear Secretary of State

Re: The Consumer Market for Heating Oil

Thank you for your letter to UKIFDA regarding the current heating oil situation in the UK. As requested, I have shared it with our members.

UKIFDA proactively contacted the Minister's office on Friday 6 March to outline the concerns our industry had regarding the impact on our customers, companies and employees.

Firstly, I want to thank you for recognising the efforts of the industry during these exceptionally challenging market conditions. I also wish to record my appreciation for the people working in our industry who have stepped up to help customers during these extremely difficult times. We share the customer's frustration about the situation.

As you will be aware, the wholesale price of jet fuel has risen markedly and quickly since the current conflict started, with markets recognising the large import dependency Europe and the UK have on imported jet fuel from the Middle East.

Our industry is a price taker. In the main, most distributors have limited storage and must replenish stocks daily, paying prices connected to the market jet fuel prices on the day. The prices charged to consumers reflect this.

The fuel distribution industry greatly differs from other energy markets. It consists of a large number of companies, many of which are small, family-run businesses. This structure encourages healthy competition, which is why, before the current crisis, consumer prices had fallen significantly since the start of the Ukraine conflict, reaching the long-term average levels seen over the past 15 years.

Last week, we took immediate steps to launch a consumer information campaign explaining the reasons behind the price increases and offering practical advice. This can

be found here: https://ukifda.org/ukifda-consumer-advice-why-are-heating-oil-prices-going-up/.

We have seen an enormous spike in demand and major price volatility. As a result, many UKIFDA members have deployed extra resources to meet this demand. Some have also taken the responsible decision not to provide a price at the point of order, explaining to customers that with prices moving daily by up to 10 pence per litre, it is only possible to give an accurate price closer to delivery, which is the point of payment.

We remain committed to working closely with your officials during this challenging period and to ensuring customers receive clear, accurate and timely information.



Ken Cronin
Chief Executive Officer
UK and Ireland Fuel Distributors Association (UKIFDA)

Cc: Michael Shanks MP, Minister of State for Energy