

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Wightman, Stuart <Stuart.Wightman@detini.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 11:56  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

Thanks Chris

Would you happen to have Mr Forgrave's telephone number? I would like to speak to him personally. I genuinely thought I was responding to another email. I have been in discussions with David Mark from Moy Park over the last few days about our proposed changes and fully appreciate the concerns the industry has over potential tariff reductions.

Thanks, Stuart

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 11:49  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

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Stuart. I thought that might have been the case. Can I ask that you cc myself into future correspondence, I am the UFU renewables policy adviser and have been working with Peter when he was at DETI and then Seamus and Dan.

Many thanks

Chris

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**From:** Wightman, Stuart [mailto:Stuart.Wightman@detini.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 11:45  
**To:** tom.forgrave@redacted by the RHI Inquiry  
**Cc:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** FW: proposed changes to nirhi

Mr Forgrave

Can I please ask you to ring me? I must apologise for my earlier email. I genuinely made a mistake and wasn't responding to your email. I had several emails open at once and was dealing with another matter on this occasion.

Please be assured that we're currently considering how we might accommodate businesses that have already entered into an investment decision based on the current RHI rates.

Again. I apologise for any offence my email may have inadvertently caused.

2

Stuart

**Stuart Wightman**

Energy Efficiency Branch  
 Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
 Netherleigh  
 Massey Avenue  
 Belfast, BT4 2JP  
 Tel: 028 9052 9425 (ext: 29425)  
 Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry  
 TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9425  
 Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

**Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?**

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**From:** Tom Forgrave [mailto:Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

**Sent:** 08 July 2015 23:04

**To:** Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Sinton, Dan

**Subject:** proposed changes to nirhi

Dear Mssrs Wightman, Hughes and Sinton

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Regarding the proposed changes to NIRHI being discussed at the present time could I please ask that you give consideration to not rushing through any changes. The proposed date of 1st Oct 15 does not give the poultry industry in NI time to adapt to a new tariff.

The poultry industry has a particularly large heat requirement and the NIRHI has proven to be very effective at encouraging farmers to be more environmentally sustainable and in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, primarily LPG.

Many farmers, myself included, are in the planning process to build new poultry sheds for Moypark. This is a long and complicated process with a timeframe of anywhere between 6 and 12 months from planning applications being submitted to biomass boilers being commissioned and chickens placed in sheds. Cash flow projections have been presented to banks to prove the ability to repay loans of between £350k and £1m over a 10 yr period. These cash flow projections were submitted based on including an NIRHI of 6.3p/kw (pre-April 15) alongside the income from the poultry.

If the proposed 2 tier tariff system is implemented before these new sheds are passed by planning, cash flows will not match the projections submitted to the banks and it will put in serious jeopardy the viability of many of these expansion plans. The banks may reconsider their loan offers and farmers may not be able to proceed with their planned expansion.

We fully appreciate that tariffs may have to mirror what is already in place in mainland UK and that a 2 tier payment structure is a proven model. What we would ask is for a period of grace to be put in place for those

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who are currently in the process of planning or building. If it is impractical for this period to remain open-ended could the 1st Jan 2016 be considered as a realistic date for the change to be implemented?

Regards

Tom Forgrave

Chairman of Moypark Growers Committee (Ballymena)  
Vice-Chair UFU Poultry Committee

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Tom Forgrave <tom.forgrave@  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 11:20  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

Personal Information  
redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Mr Wightman

I appreciate you coming back to me so quickly but I'm not sure it was the reasoned response I was looking for. The poultry industry is the largest employer in the private sector in NI and is integral to the agricultural industry in NI. It seems that in representing DETI the needs of such an important part of our economy are not being taken seriously by you or your peers.

The NIRHI when it was introduced was seen as very much a forward moving step and although GB were allowed up to a 199kw boiler, which really suited the poultry industry, we were limited to a 99kw boiler. This was insufficient for the heat demand required in our poultry sheds but it worked because it was only a single tier system.

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Now we are being told, at extremely short notice, that not only do you wish to put us on a 2 tier system but that there is a possibility that it will continue to be limited to 99kw. As I've outlined already, to move to a 2 tier system at short notice will play havoc with the current building programme but to limit it to 99kw will stop biomass installations dead in their tracks. How does DETI envisage us hitting our targets for renewable heat by 2020?

I may not be in agreement with moving to a 2 tier system but if it mirrors that which is already in place in GB then I can't argue against it. If however you wish to make it up as you go along and pluck numbers out of the air and limit us to a 99kw boiler on 1341hrs/annum then some very serious consultation will be needed. The industry will need time to give their response.

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**From:** Stuart.Wightman@detini.gov.uk  
**To:** tom.forgrave@  
**Date:** Thu, 9 Jul 2015 09:19:16 +0100  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

Personal Information  
redacted  
by the RHI Inquiry

I'm not buying this!!

St

2

**From:** Tom Forgrave [mailto:tom.forgrave@  
**Sent:** 08 July 2015 23:04  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Sinton, Dan  
**Subject:** proposed changes to nirhi

Personal Information  
redacted by the RHI  
Inquiry

Dear Mssrs Wightman, Hughes and Sinton

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The poultry industry has a particularly large heat requirement and the NIRHI has proven to be very effective at encouraging farmers to be more environmentally sustainable and in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, primarily LPG.

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We fully appreciate that tariffs may have to mirror what is already in place in mainland UK and that a 2 tier payment structure is a proven model. What we would ask is for a period of grace to be put in place for those who are currently in the process of planning or building. If it is impractical for this period to remain open-ended could the 1st Jan 2016 be considered as a realistic date for the change to be implemented?

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Regards

Tom Forgrave

Chairman of Moypark Growers Committee (Ballymena)

Vice-Chair UFU Poultry Committee

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Tom Forgrave <tom.forgrave@  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 11:09  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

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Chris

I thought it was a very abrupt response, I was looking for a bit of a debate.

I think they are determined to save money and have made their minds up already. I don't think they want to be challenged or to have to enter into debate.

The proposed changes will alter dramatically the pay back period for such a huge capital spend.

Tom

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**From:** christopher@ufuhq.com  
**To:** tom.forgrave@  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi  
**Date:** Thu, 9 Jul 2015 10:03:52 +0000

Personal Information redacted  
by the RHI Inquiry

Tom,

What does he mean by "I'm not buying this".

Of course I will support the delay, I will get to work on my submission asap.

C

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**From:** Tom Forgrave [mailto:tom.forgrave@  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 10:58  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** FW: proposed changes to nirhi

Personal Information  
redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Hi Chris

Following on from our conversation regarding the NIRHI changes proposed for 1st Oct I sent the email below to DETI. I wasn't impressed with the response I received.

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I know you are up to your eyes with NI ROC's but is there any chance UFU could throw a little weight behind the poultry sector to try and delay the proposed changes? I think DETI want to finalise their plans today or tomorrow so as to make an announcement post holidays.

Regards

Tom

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**From:** [Stuart.Wightman@detini.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Wightman@detini.gov.uk)

**To:** [tom.forgrave@](mailto:tom.forgrave@) Personal Information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

**Date:** Thu, 9 Jul 2015 09:19:16 +0100

**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi  
I'm not buying this!!

St

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**Sent:** 08 July 2015 23:04

**To:** Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Sinton, Dan

**Subject:** proposed changes to nirhi

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Tom Forgrave

Chairman of Moypark Growers Committee (Ballymena)  
Vice-Chair UFU Poultry Committee

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:detini.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2015 09:59  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi

Please see email below from the poultry industry seeking grace periods to the proposed tariff changes we're planning in October. This is the NIRHI all over again. As soon as the final policy is published, the flood gates are likely to open in terms of correspondence from the industry.

To try and minimise this and to accommodate any businesses which have already committed to an investment decision based on the current tariff rates, we're exploring the possibility of being able to stand over the current rates for anyone who can provide documentation to show that they have already entered into an agreement with the bank (or applied for planning permission) before the Final policy was published. This will probably have to be timebound – 6-9 months. We will need to discuss this with Dfgem to see if this is workable before we can confirm this. In terms of budget management, we'll be able to factor these cases into our forecasts going forward.

**From:** Tom Forgrave [mailto:tom.forgrave@detini.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 08 July 2015 23:04  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** proposed changes to nirhi

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 Inquiry

Dear [redacted]

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