



RURAL ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Rural Enterprise Policy Committee met on Wednesday 26 February 2014 in the Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown

- ATTENDANCE:** G Hawkes (Chairman) R Burgess (Vice Chairman) B Armstrong, D Browne, M Harnett, S Johnston, K Mullan and C Osborne (Secretary).
- APOLOGIES:** B Bell (Deputy President), R Campbell, J Carson, R Craig, P Lundy and R Smyth
- MINUTES:** Agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.
- MATTERS ARISING:** Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
- CORRESPONDANCE:** None
- COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

OFGEM meeting - 4 December 2013 - UFU Rural Enterprise Chairman and Senior Policy Officer met with the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) at their Millbank HQ in London. OFGEM is the GB government regulator for the electricity and downstream natural gas markets in Great Britain. It was formed by the merger of the Office of Electricity Regulation (OFFER) and Office of Gas Supply (OFGAS). OFGEM plays a crucial role in the administration of many aspects of Renewables in Northern Ireland. The two main topics for discussion included the NIRHI and the NIRO. Whilst the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (NIRHI) policy and tariff rates are set by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), it is OFGEM who oversee the accreditation process. OFGEM confirmed that there are a large number of 99kW biomass boilers awaiting accreditation.

OFGEM administer and oversee the accreditation process for the NIRO. This is in accordance with the NIRO Order on behalf of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR) under a Agency Services Agreement. Accreditation is a pre-requisite before a generator can start receiving ROC payments. The UFU emphasised the need for a speedy accreditation process, any delays at this stage of the project could have significant financial implications for would-be renewable generators.

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



Grid Connection

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



Lecale DSU

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



Any Other Business

None

As there was no further business the Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Date of next meeting – May/June 2014