

should not be lost to Northern Ireland and that any surplus funding for the measure should ultimately be reallocated to other measures if uptake still remained poor.

NI Rural Development Programme Post 2013:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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CHAIRMAN: IAN BUCHANAN
ACTING SECRETARY: LEANNE WILSON

RURAL ENTERPRISE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Rural Enterprise Committee has met on four occasions since the 2011 AGM.

Main issues addressed:

Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (NIRHI): This consultation concluded in Autumn 2011 and at the time DETI anticipated a launch on 1 April 2012. At the time of publication this date is

looking unlikely. The UFU voiced concerns about many aspects of the proposals. UFU is concerned that the proposed £25million is not ample to generate a sustainable Renewable Heat sector NI. NI RHI is also too closely aligned to the GB incentive. In its current proposed form the RHI is not tailored to NI's specific needs. Yet the proposed tariff levels were out of sync with those on offer in GB. The Consultation stated that we will be displacing oil and not gas, which is the opposite of what will be happening in GB. DETI admit that delivered oil prices are more expensive in NI compared to GB and because of this NI needs less subvention to RH projects. The UFU would disagree with this logic, with gas not likely to reach many parts of NI, the gas price is irrelevant and these areas will still be subject to high oil prices.

A factor which has been ignored is that we share a land border with another EU Member State. With ROI likely to press ahead with a proposed increase in Carbon tax, this will have a negative impact upon biomass production in NI. GB will also be a more enticing prospect compared to NI, with their tariffs more attractive. Investors looking to fund ESCOs will get a far better return in GB compared to NI and turn their focus to across the Irish Sea.

UFU view this as a missed funding opportunity to develop the Renewable Heat sector in NI. The UFU feels that the balance of money being directed at the extension of the gas network compared to renewable heat is unfairly skewed. This money would be better directed at the development of a Northern Ireland-tailored Renewable Heat Incentive.

NIE Grid Connection:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Series of Regular Meetings with NIE:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

UFU meeting with Utility Regulator:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

RIDP (Renewable Energy Development Programme):

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

NI Regional Development Programme – Axis 3 Funding:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

CAFRE Practical On-Farm Renewable Energy (POFRE) events:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Planning Policy and Renewables:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Proposed Changes to the Northern Ireland Renewable Obligation (NIRO):

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

UK Union Meeting – London - 19 December 2011:

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry