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Chris Osborne
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Christopher@ufuhq.com

Dear Chris

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIOMASS SCIENCE IN AFBI

I am writing to let you know about the future of renewable energy and biomass research in AFBI.

In responding to strategic proposals from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) to reposition itself to meet the priority needs of government and industry, while addressing the current and anticipated future pressures on public finances, the DARD Minister has made a number of decisions in relation to the work programme that AFBI carries out for DARD.

The Minister has decided that DARD will withdraw funding from renewable energy and biomass research in AFBI. This will include the biomass agronomy work at AFBI Loughgall and the renewable energy work carried out at AFBI Hillsborough. The Minister has however encouraged AFBI to seek external funding streams for this work and has said that the facilities at the Environment and Renewable Energy Centre at Hillsborough will remain available to facilitate a degree of Technology Transfer from previous research as well as reducing AFBI's energy costs and carbon footprint.

Therefore unless AFBI can find alternative customers for renewable energy and biomass research, this work will cease when current DARD-funded work ceases.

I would be very happy to meet with you and colleagues to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kennedy', is written over a horizontal line.

PROFESSOR SEAMUS KENNEDY

Chief Executive

cc Dr S Mayne
Professor J McAdam