

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Savage, Patrick <Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 September 2012 14:45  
**To:** Christopher Osborne; Christopher Osborne  
**Cc:** Scott, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: BCF [Scanned]

Chris

Just a short note to keep you informed regarding the re-opening of the BPCF for a second tranche yesterday, as per the Minister's Press Release and associated documents on the DARD website;

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-dard/news-dard-100912-oneill-announces-fresh.htm>

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/grants-and-funding/biomass-processing-challenge-fund.htm>

Re Mr Hunniford, on reflection, I think it might be best, particularly bearing in mind our data protection responsibilities, if Mr Hunniford could contact me directly simply to confirm that I have authority to discuss the specific details of his claim with yourself, as a UFU representative. A one line email or short telephone call from Mr Hunniford will suffice.

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I trust this is in order.

Regards,  
Paddy

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher\_osborne@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Sent:** 07 September 2012 08:29  
**To:** Savage, Patrick  
**Subject:** RE: BCF

Cheers Paddy, much appreciated.

C

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**From:** Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk  
**To:** christopher\_osborne@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry  
**Date:** Fri, 7 Sep 2012 08:20:45 +0100  
**Subject:** RE: BCF

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**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Savage, Patrick (DARD) <Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2013 11:04  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** Re: BCF Tranche Two Update [Scanned]

Chris

Apologies, I'm out of the office at the moment but I can confirm that we received 24 applications in total which is a significant increase in applications from tranche one. Selection panels are scheduled for 12th March and 25th March with Letters of Offer to issue as soon as possible after selection.

I hope this is of help. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Paddy

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This was sent from my Blackberry Device.

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 01, 2013 10:31 AM  
**To:** Savage, Patrick (DARD)  
**Subject:** BCF Tranche Two Update [Scanned]

Morning Paddy,

Could you email a quick update on uptake of the BCF? I am compiling our annual report and it would be useful to have a handle on number of applications received.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

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For more information about the services we provide please visit our web site at [www.ufuni.org](http://www.ufuni.org)

Chris

I do appreciate your courtesy in this matter. What I can say is that while DARD staff cannot give advice on how to fill out the form, we will try to be as helpful as possible in providing any clarifications sought by potential applicants through our dedicated email address [bpcf.requests@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:bpcf.requests@dardni.gov.uk) and obviously by telephone as well. I am confident that there will be have been sufficient "lessons learnt" from Tranche 1 to allow the administrative process following the completion of the application form to run as smoothly as possible, given goodwill on all sides.

I will contact you regarding Mr Hunniford, if not today then certainly early next week.

Regards,  
Paddy

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher\_osborne@...] Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

**Sent:** 07 September 2012 07:23

**To:** Savage, Patrick

**Subject:** RE: BCF

**Importance:** High

Paddy,

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Many thanks for getting back to me.

I did receive your initial email, but it was when i mentioned to our Rural Enterprise Committee last week that Tranche 2 was to be opened on 10 September, they aired their concerns about how the first tranche had worked, in particular the application process and further resulting administration. Many of our committee members are what i would call early exponents of Biomass and would be more than aux fais with business plans and the hoops it is necessary to jump through when accessing funding but for them to complain about the complexities would back up our concerns.

The complex application process was raised with Joyce Rutherford at the very outset of the BCF in 2010 and we released press releases urging DARD to make sure that the fund should be as accessible as possible. We obviously understand that the need for detailed information when accessing such monies.

The purpose of my email yesterday was to bring these concerns to your attention once again before the next tranche is launched on Monday, as we will be putting out a press release next week on the announcement but we will be referring to the application process when we do so and the email was a matter of courtesy.

Back to Mr Hunniford, it might be best if i was to speak to you directly about this. He asked me to speak to yourselves about his concerns.

Chris.

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**From:** Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk  
**To:** christopher\_osborne [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Date:** Thu, 6 Sep 2012 18:40:40 +0100  
**Subject:** RE: BCF

Chris

Thank you for your email. Given the problems you are experiencing with your server, I should confirm whether you received my email last week advising you that the Fund will re-open on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September and will be open for a period of 12 weeks, closing on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This additional opening period will give us an opportunity to advertise the Fund at the Hort 2012 conference, the AD Conference in Templepatrick on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and the PoFRE event at Greenmount at the end of October.

Moving on to your specific points, this is not something which has been raised with us in recent times. I appreciate entirely Chris that the application does request some quite detailed information and we have looked at the application form as part of the process of finalising the re-opening documentation. We have made some amendments which will hopefully provide clarification however the length of the application form is comparable to the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche. All detail that is sought is required in order for the project to be properly scored against the assessment criteria of the ERDF and to assure the department that applicants are aware of how this technology will impact upon their farm.

We require a business case because we need to be sure that the technology proposed makes technical and economic sense before a grant can be offered. In particular, given the vast amounts of money (£1 million +) to be expended on

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Anaerobic Digesters, we would anticipate that a business case will be beneficial to any farmer proposing such a development and that much of the work may have already been undertaken (bearing in mind that for AD projects the vast majority of the project finance will be provided by the farmer themselves). The last thing we want is for farmers to commit themselves to expenditure into seven figures without having analysed every aspect of the proposal. While we are also aware that the Fund is open to all types of technology, not just Anaerobic Digesters, we considered that to provide separate application forms would risk greater confusion.

While I don't think I should discuss individual projects, in many cases under the BPCF, particularly on the AD side, project promoters employed project managers to oversee the entire construction project rather than just the BPCF application process. While such decisions are a matter for farmers themselves, we are pleased to see as much expertise as possible involved in what are often complex pieces of technology.

I hope the above is of help.

Thanks,  
Paddy

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher\_osborne@ [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]]  
**Sent:** 06 September 2012 10:53  
**To:** Savage, Patrick  
**Subject:** BCF  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning Paddy,

You will not recognise the email address but our server is down and i have had to revert to  to communicate with the outside world.

I have been talking to a very disgruntled Richard Hunniford (AD plant near Portadown) in relation to his own experience about the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of the BCF. Are you aware of the problems?

One of his main complaints was the application process, which he felt was very complex and hard for many farmers to understand. In his case he had to employ a form filler and pay him £4,000 to complete the form.

When we met on 30 June, the UFU raised our concerns about the application process and this backs up our concerns. The point of my email is to stress that whilst the UFU appreciates that the application process for T2 needs to be rigorous so as to prevent fraud etc at the same time it needs to be accessible for our members and easy to understand.

Many thanks

Chris

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Savage, Patrick <Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 August 2012 16:08  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** Biomass Processing Challenge Fund [Scanned]

Chris

Just a quick email to give you the heads-up that the BPCF will be re-opening for a second tranche on Monday 10th September. The Fund will be open for 12 weeks until the end of November which will include the dates of both the Horticulture Exhibition at Greenmont and the Pofre event.

I'll be back in the office tomorrow if you wish to discuss further.

Regards,  
Paddy

This was sent from my Blackberry Device.

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Savage, Patrick <Patrick.Savage@dardni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 26 March 2012 14:38  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Cc:** Coulter, Kieran  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with UFU [Scanned]

Christopher

Thank you for your email below and I look forward to working with you. I am grateful for your invitation to meet and am happy to do so. I should point out however that my responsibilities are primarily in relation to the Biomass Processing Challenge Fund (BPCF). Kieran Coulter, who I believe you have already met, is also covering part of what were previously Joyce's brief and will accompany me to the meeting.

We are happy to host the meeting in Dundonald House. Grateful if you could advise as to your availability and I will make the necessary arrangements. Please also advise as to whether any other persons will be attending, as well as providing some outline as to the specific issues which you wish to discuss.

I trust this is in order.

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Regards,  
Paddy

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**From:** Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]  
**Sent:** 26 March 2012 12:36  
**To:** Savage, Patrick  
**Cc:** david@sienergy.co.uk  
**Subject:** Meeting with UFU [Scanned]  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon Paddy,

My name is Chris Osborne and i am the Ulster Farmers' Union Policy Officer responsible for Renewables, amongst other things as well.

I believe that you are looking after Joyce Rutherford's work load after her move to DETI. I have worked closely with Lynne O'Neill in the past and i also gather that you are covering her maternity leave.

Would it be possible to set up a meeting soon to introduce ourselves as well as getting an update on what is happening with renewables with particular reference to the land-based sector which we represent? We could come over to Dundonald House or we could accommodate here on the Antrim Road.

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Many thanks and i look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Osborne  
Dairy and Renewables Policy

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