

Christopher Osborne

From: Cunningham, Blinnia <Blinnia.Cunningham@dardni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 September 2009 11:09
To: Christopher Osborne
Subject: RE: Proposed DARD Biomass Challenge Fund - EQIA Screening Process [Scanned]

Chris

Thank you for your email in relation to the above. I tried to phone you this morning but you were unavaialble. Would it be possible for you to provide a more formal response to our request along the lines that there are no equality issues surrounding the setting up of the biomass Processing Challenge Fund. Our next step is to approach our equality branch and we need evidence to say that we have represented the agricultural community via the UFU and NIAPA etc.

Many thanks

Blinnia

From: Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]
Sent: 16 September 2009 12:58
To: Cunningham, Blinnia

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Cc: Rutherford, Joyce; Doherty, Jonathon
Subject: RE: Proposed DARD Biomass Challenge Fund - EQIA Screening Process [Scanned]

Sorry Blinnia,

I have had a chance to read it and it all seems fine to me.

Chris Osborne

From: Cunningham, Blinnia [mailto:Blinnia.Cunningham@dardni.gov.uk]
Sent: 16 September 2009 12:18
To: Christopher Osborne
Cc: Rutherford, Joyce; Doherty, Jonathon
Subject: FW: Proposed DARD Biomass Challenge Fund - EQIA Screening Process [Scanned]

Chris

I appreciate you have a busy schedule but did you get an opportunity to look at the email below from Jonathan Doherty (DARD) in relation to the EQIA screening process for the Biomass Processing Challenge Fund. As part of the required screening process I would really appreciate as soon as possible any views you have on whether or not the the fund promotes the equality of opportunity within the farming community.

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Regards

Blinnia Cunningham
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028 90525493
Ext 25493

From: Doherty, Jonathon
Sent: 02 September 2009 11:04
To: Cunningham, Blinnia
Subject: FW: Proposed DARD Biomass Challenge Fund - EQIA Screening Process

Blinnia

Email re BCF screening for your info. This has not been TRIMed.

Thanks

J

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From: Doherty, Jonathon
Sent: 24 August 2009 11:46
To: "Christopher Osborne
Subject: Proposed DARD Biomass Challenge Fund - EQIA Screening Process

Chris

DARD are proposing to launch a Biomass Challenge Fund, subject to EU approvals. This fund would provide capital grant aid to support renewable energy technologies at farm level.

As part of the development process, and Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, DARD are required to ensure all parts of the fund promote the equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Additionally, and without prejudice to the above obligation, the Department is also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. As an initial stage the Department is therefore required to conduct a screening process.

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I would be grateful if your organisation would consider and provide a view on whether any of the following Section 75 groups within the farming community would be excluded from applying into such a fund.

- Religious belief
- Political opinion
- Racial group
- Age
- Marital status
- Sexual orientation
- Gender
- Disability
- Dependants

A response by 2 September 2009 would be appreciated.

Many thanks

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Environmental Policy Branch
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