

Christopher Osborne

From: John Fullerton <jfullerton@strategicplanning.uk.com>
Sent: 08 June 2016 15:22
To: Christopher Osborne
Cc: David Kerr
Subject: FW: email to economy committee members

Hi Chris,

Hope you're well.

Would you be happy to send the below to members of the new Economy Committee and committee clerk (contact details below)?

As you know we are looking to keep the pressure on to get this closed out before the summer recess.

Thanks,

John

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Dear . . .

You will be aware that the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) has been the main support mechanism for incentivising renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland since 2005 with many farmers and landowners investing significantly in renewables as a result.

During the last Assembly mandate the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee undertook a large amount of work scrutinising the proposed secondary legislation associated with the closure of the NIRO.

The issue was eventually resolved and legislated for in respect of the large scale wind industry, however, a further consultation was undertaken for the small scale wind industry meaning legislation could not be finalised before end of the previous mandate. This most recent eight week *'consultation on the closure of the NIRO to new small scale onshore wind'* closed on 9th May. A joint response was submitted by the Ulster Farmers alongside the other main representatives of the small scale wind industry Simple Power and Renewable NI.

Given the constraints outlined by DETI in that consultation document, and the clear unwillingness by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to relax the closure date and criteria for small scale wind, the sector has clearly identified the adoption of the proposals outlined in **Option 1** as the best way forward. We believe that there is a clear consensus on this approach from all sides.

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However, the small scale wind industry need the certainty which would be afforded through this being legislated for by the Department for the Economy in advance of the summer recess. If it is not progressed in that time there will be severe financial repercussions for the sector in terms of financing projects going forward which meet all eligibility criteria and have received significant investment to date.

To that end, we are requesting that the Committee for the Economy seek to ensure that the necessary legislation to close the NIRO for small scale onshore wind is expedited by the Department as an absolute priority before the summer recess period.

Kind Regards,

Chris Osborne

To be sent to;

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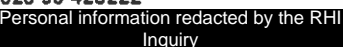
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RTPI UK & Ireland Small Planning Consultancy of the Year (Finalist) 2013
CIPR Gold Award Winner for Outstanding Small Consultancy 2011
CIPR Gold Award Winner for Public Affairs 2010
RTPI UK & Ireland Small Planning Consultancy of the Year (Winner) 2008

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