

Christopher Osborne

From: Hall, Peter <Peter.Hall@niassembly.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 June 2016 16:39
To: Christopher Osborne
Cc: McParland, Angela; Kelly, Sinead; Hall, Peter
Subject: Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) FAO Chairman and Members of the NI Assembly Committee for the Economy

Importance: High

Chris,

Thank you for your email. The Committee considered the UFU's correspondence with the Economy Minister on this issue at its meeting today.

The Committee discussed this issue with officials at the meeting and they (the officials) indicated that the weight of opinion appeared to be for Option 1.

Proposals are currently awaiting the Minister's approval and then they will be transmitted to the Committee for its consideration.

1

We will put your email before the Committee at its next meeting.

Regards,

Peter



PETER HALL

*Clerk to the Culture, Arts and Leisure
Committee*

work: 028 905 21718

mobile: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

email: peter.hall@niassembly.gov.uk

twitter: @NIAEconomy

Room 430
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

2

Dear Conor.

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 (both in terms of capital and time) 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.

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

3

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
UFU Senior Policy Officer

This email is strictly confidential. It may be privileged. It is intended for use only by the intended addressee.

If you have received it in error, we would be grateful if you would tell the sender, and then permanently delete it. If you are not the intended addressee, then any copying, distributing, disclosing of, or relying on the information in the email is prohibited.

Opinions or facts expressed in this email are not necessarily those of the Northern Ireland Assembly or the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission.

4

This email has been checked for viruses, but the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission disclaims any liability for damage caused by any virus transmitted by it. The Commission may monitor any email on its system.
