

Wesley Aston

From: andrew crawford [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Sent: 04 February 2016 22:28
To: Wesley Aston
Subject: Re: UFU NIRO Press

Wesley

Give me a call- happy to take a call in the morning from 7.

Andrew

Sent from my iPad

On 4 Feb 2016, at 15:47, Wesley Aston <wesley@ufuhq.com> wrote:

Andrew,

As per my voice message on your mobile I would like to discuss this with you asap.

Wesley

From: Deborah Cummings
Sent: 04 February 2016 13:35
To: Christopher Osborne; Wesley Aston
Subject: UFU NIRO Press
Importance: High

Hi See attached draft PR for consideration

Richard has asked that Wesley take a read

Please come back to me with PR finally signed off so I can get it issued.

Wesley also could you give Richard a ring about what you want in the supply chain pr for Saturday. We will follow up with one for Thursday with the list of asks which we will draft Monday after staff meeting

Debs

Deborah Cummings

Communications Manager
Ulster Farmers' Union
475 Antrim Road
Belfast
BT15 3DA
Tel: 028 9037 0222
Mobile: [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

<image005.jpg><image003.gif> <image004.gif>

Wesley Aston

From: Deborah Cummings
Sent: 04 February 2016 13:35
To: Christopher Osborne; Wesley Aston
Subject: UFU NIRO Press
Attachments: 16-02-04_UFU frustrated at DETI failure to meet over NIRO closure for small scale wind_31.docx

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ULSTER FARMERS' UNION NEWS RELEASE

Date: 4 February 2016

Cyclo No:31/2016

UFU frustrated at DETI failure to meet over NIRO closure for small scale wind

The Ulster Farmers' Union says it is frustrated by the unwillingness of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) to meet and seek a solution to the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation Certificate (NIROC) scheme for small scale wind turbines.

The UFU and Simple Power have already initiated a judicial review of the DETI consultation process for the closure of the NIRO for onshore wind. A leave hearing is scheduled for 26 February. The UFU, Simple Power, Wind NI and Renewables NI met the DETI committee at Stormont recently and made clear their willingness to engage with the department to seek an agreed plan for the NIRO closure for turbines generating less than 250kW, the large scale wind industry having accepted the plan.

"We are trying on to get a solution that works and is fair. Many farmers and businesses have invested in this technology and face having projects shut down because of issues beyond their control," said UFU, rural enterprise chairman Gary Hawkes. He said the small scale wind industry had been 'uniquely and very badly' affected by development delays. "These are around grid connection in particular. We are proposing a grace period to allow projects awaiting grid connection a reasonable chance to connect," he said.

To pursue this, the UFU has sought a meeting with the DETI minister, without prejudice to the judicial review. "No meeting date or any form of engagement has been forthcoming from DETI," said Mr Hawkes. He said their frustration was made worse by the minister saying publicly that he would make a decision before mid-February. "Since he has not entered into discussions with ourselves, we fail to see how he can reach a final decision. This is not an acceptable way to do business – which is why we are making public this call for the minister to engage," said Mr Hawkes.

ENDS//...

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Media Contacts

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Linda Surphlis m:

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Inquiry