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4 September 2015

Patsy McGlone MLA  
Chair, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Mr McGlone,

**SL1 Proposed Renewables Obligation Closure Order and Grace Period (Northern Ireland) 2015  
– Wind Technology**

This letter is further to correspondence we sent to the ETI Committee on 7 July 2015.

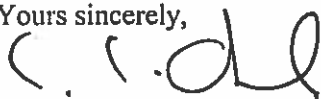
The UFU are aware that the ETI Committee is meeting on 8 September and will be discussing SL1 Proposed Renewables Obligation Closure Order and Grace Period (Northern Ireland) 2015 for non-wind Technology. We are writing to you today to ensure that the ETI Committee is aware of the UFU policy position calling for the continued support for small scale wind generation (<250kW) until 31 March 2017 and an appropriate grace period.

We are aware of the fact that DETI are still awaiting confirmation from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change about the socialisation of costs in order to finalise their consultation on the closure of the NIRO to onshore wind. Our point is that policy makers must refrain from lumping together small and large scale wind generation when reaching a final determination in relation to the closure of the ROC payment system in Northern Ireland. Should the two scales not be differentiated, it will have grave consequences for the small scale renewables sector. DECC in London have identified cost saving associated with closing support for large scale wind generation early. However, the UFU would make the case that any savings linked to small scale generation are negligible.

Small scale wind generation provides a very direct benefit to farming communities throughout Northern Ireland, offering sustainable diversification and additional income, particularly at a time when farm incomes are clearly under serious pressure. The small scale wind sector has faced significant barriers (many of which remained unresolved – grid connection) and the concern for the UFU and its membership, many of whom have invested heavily in these projects could end up being out of pocket through no fault of their own.

In light of this information we would urge that there is a need to separate the two scales of wind energy production and continue support for small scale generation. The situation facing the local small scale wind sector in Northern Ireland is on a knife edge and we are calling upon the ETI Committee to act decisively to maintain ROCs support in line with other non-wind technologies without any further delay.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Osborne**  
UFU Senior Policy Officer