

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** Crawford, Andrew <Andrew.Crawford@dfpni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2015 13:29  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Finance Minister

Chris

I'm off this week but I will look at this when I return

Andrew

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Christopher Osborne

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2015 13:22

To: Crawford, Andrew

Subject: Meeting with Finance Minister

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Good afternoon Andrew,

I did try and call you to discuss this but I would imagine you are flat out with many other queries. From what I gather George Dorrian has spoken to you about this as well.

We would like to meet with Arlene Foster to discuss the non-domestic rating of small scale renewables. We wrote to Simon Hamilton (letter attached) when he was still in the post and when I spoke to him privately outside of work he agreed to meet with us and he said that he would pencil in a meeting in early May. This could have been since lost in system since the change over.

Is there any chance you could see if we could get a meeting with Arlene to discuss this matter, would it be better if I was to resend it?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Osborne

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One use for such a product is to produce renewable fuel for biomass fed power stations. Willow or poplar cuttings are planted on farmland and, after the first year, are harvested every three years or so. The cuttings are made into chips that are used as fuel”.

In additional support, the UFU wishes to point out that without drying, willow cannot be stored, and is therefore an integral part of the Willow processing. The resulting end-product is wood chip and in many instances this is used for bedding of farm livestock.

A counter argument is sometimes raised that the woodchip can be used for fuel. The UFU would like to point out that under a 100 years ago here in Northern Ireland, grain was grown for horses who would then transport goods from the farms to markets, what is the difference between and growing energy crops today? When horse-drawn haulage was the norm, 1/3 of land was used to produce feed for horses, considerably more than the quantity of ground utilised for energy crops today.

The UFU are asking that you take these facts into consideration and consider this facility to be rated as agricultural.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Osborne**  
**UFU Senior Policy Officer**

**Christopher Osborne**

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**From:** George Dorrian [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2015 10:35  
**To:** Christopher Osborne  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Finance Minister

Christopher,

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner, I must have used a wrong email previously on my email to contact you.

If you contact me on [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] I use this daily.

Re your email, I spoke with Andrew Crawford this morning, and he asks can you contact him regarding your request.

Best Regards  
George

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**From:** George Dorrian [mailto:[Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]]  
**Sent:** 08 August 2015 17:26  
**To:** George Dorrian [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Meeting with Finance Minister

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Christopher Osborne [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Date:** 7 August 2015 13:54:15 BST  
**To:** George Dorrian [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Subject:** Meeting with Finance Minister

Good afternoon George,

Trust you are well.

Just so you know, we have still as yet not managed to get a meeting with Arlene Foster to discuss the non-domestic rating of small scale renewables. We wrote to Simon Hamilton when

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he was still in the post and when I spoke to him privately he agreed to meet with us.

Is there any chance you could see if we could get a meeting with Arlene to discuss the letter?  
Copy attached.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Osborne