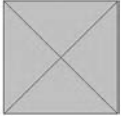


**To:** Mike Mullan[Mike.Mullan@moypark.com]  
**Cc:** Peter Morrow[P.Morrow@morrowcommunications.com]  
**From:** Jacinta Parkhill  
**Sent:** Tue 2/9/2016 8:48:30 PM  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** UFU Statement  
**MAIL\_RECEIVED:** Tue 2/9/2016 8:48:41 PM  
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Mike  
See below draft UFU statement.  
Jacinta



## ULSTER FARMERS' UNION NEWS RELEASE

**DATE:9 FEBRUARY 2016**

**CYCLO NO: 37/2016**

### **UFU slams closure of Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme**

Ulster Farmers Union Rural Enterprise Chairman, Gary Hawkes, says he is 'angry and frustrated' by a decision to suspend the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (NIRHI). He says this is based on a 'flawed' consultation process, and that the suspension and imminent closure will leave in disarray the plans and considerable resource commitments already made by many farmers who were expecting support. The RHI is part of a green strategy by government to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) confirmed that it plans to end the scheme next week. "We understand that these are difficult times for public spending and that priorities have to be set," said Mr Hawkes, but he insisted it was unfair that farmers should pay the price for poor decision making. "There was no consultation on this closure. A limit should have been placed on the RHI budget. DETI had two opportunities to introduce a phased closure which would have avoided the sudden ending of the scheme. We met DETI in July 2015 and we warned of an imminent spike in demand and in the following Spending Review in November, DETI were made aware of the imminent overspend. A stepped closure would have avoided the over-spend which led to today's panic decision to put an overnight brake on a scheme around which many farmers have built long term investment plans," he said.

The big losers will be poultry farmers investing in new biomass boilers. While these are expensive the RHI made them affordable, but now farmers who have committed to these will be denied the aid needed to make them economic. "We are not

seeking a blank cheque for farmers. We fully accept that tough spending decisions have to be made by government, but the problems which this scheme faced were not of farmers' making, they were working towards a deadline of 31 March 2016 in good faith.

The UFU recognise that it is fair to close the RHI scheme to new projects, but those who can show they have invested in expectation of support should be allowed time to complete projects before the scheme ends," said Mr Hawkes.

**Ends//..**

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 Feb 2016, at 18:46, Mike Mullan <[Mike.Mullan@moypark.com](mailto:Mike.Mullan@moypark.com)> wrote:

Many thanks  
Mike

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** [Jacinta Parkhill](#)  
**Sent:** 09/02/2016 17:55  
**To:** [Mike Mullan \(Mike.Mullan@moypark.com\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Peter Morrow](#)  
**Subject:** RHI Statement

Hi Mike,

I have amended the below statement as discussed. I have contacted the UFU to get their statement but haven't received it yet. I will share this with you once it comes through.

Jacinta

A statement from Moy Park

Commenting on the announcement by DETI stating its intention to close the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme, Moy Park's Director of Agriculture, David Gibson, said that the RHI had been extremely beneficial to local poultry growers and asked for clarity on timescales if the scheme is to end.

"We need immediate clarity on intentions and timescales", he said. "While this decision will not affect previously agreed contracts, my concern is for our farmer partners who have applied to join the scheme and have already committed to investment but are not yet up and running. There are many cases where equipment has been ordered and financial commitments have been given on the understanding that the RHI would remain open to join. We need meaningful

consultation on this and if the scheme is to close there must, at the very least, be a managed transition for people in the pipeline.”

**ENDS**

**Jacinta Parkhill**

Senior Communications Consultant

**Morrow Communications**

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M: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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