

It is important to note that an investor will make the decision about where the company will locate based on the area's ability to meet the requirements of their business. Typically an investor will look for existing investors in the same business sector (Invest NI's key target sectors being ICT, business services, financial services and renewables); universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that sector; and suitable, available property. In addition, potential investors are often drawn to population centres that they consider will provide the appropriate number of suitably skilled potential employees.

Areas in which these desired features do not exist, or are not clearly presented, are unlikely to attract the attention of potential investors to visit or locate in the area.

Invest NI is working with stakeholders in the Newry and Armagh areas to help foster an understanding of the typical requirements of an FDI project in order to help those areas become "investor ready". For example, in February 2014, the agency's International Investment Division met with representatives of Newry Chamber of Commerce and Newry & Mourne District Council to hear about the area's investment proposition and initiatives to build its capabilities. The day concluded with a visit to Southern Regional College (SRC) to hear about the work that the college is doing to increase the area's skills capability, in particular i3, SRC's business support centre.

Invest NI has also developed an 'FDI app' and a 'District Council App' which will help present a snapshot of the benefits of setting up in Northern Ireland to potential investors. Newry & Mourne District Council has indicated that it wishes to be involved and Invest NI is working with the Council to develop these downloadable mobile applications which will form part of a promotional toolkit highlighting each Council area's attractiveness as a potential investment location.

Ultimately however, the investor will make the decision as to where they locate based on their specific business needs and having considered the options available to them.

Giro d'Italia 2014: Money Invested in North Antrim

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the money her Department is investing in North Antrim in relation to the hosting of the Giro d'Italia 2014.

(AQW 30991/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), has set up a number of working groups specifically designed to address all aspects of the Giro d'Italia 2014.

These working groups are exclusively created to discuss how the Local Councils can capitalise on the Giro and the opportunities it brings to the area.

My Department, through NITB, has already committed £3 million to secure the Giro d'Italia for Northern Ireland which will facilitate this global event coming to Northern Ireland and indeed travelling through the North Antrim area.

Renewable Sources of Energy

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the current percentage of energy that is generated from renewable sources.

(AQW 30993/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the twelve month period to end January 2014, approximately 18% of electricity consumption was from renewable sources. The Programme for Government target is 20% by 2015.

It is estimated that we are on track to achieve the Programme for Government target of 4% renewable heat by 2015. However, to verify progress, DETI will carry out analysis as part of a future review of the Renewable Heat Incentive.

NORTHERN IRELAND RHI SUMMARY 2013

This report covers the period to mid-November 2013 and provides statistics on the uptake of the RHI scheme in Northern Ireland, based on output, tariff, efficiency, heat use and hours of operation.

As the scheme is fairly new, the number of applications received to date doesn't form a strong basis for detailed and accurate conclusions for the scheme's future. Statistics are however consistent, when adjusted for NI's population, with the results of the scheme in other regions for their corresponding periods.

To date, 63 applications have been received. Fig.1 shows the status of these applications.

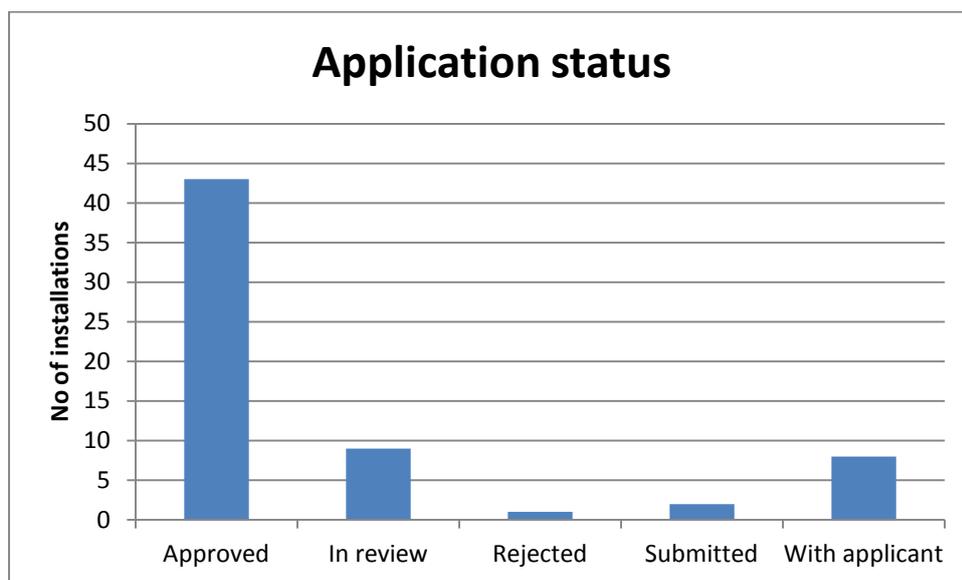


Fig.1

It is worth noting at this stage that all 63 applications are for solid biomass boilers, so there has been no analysis for different types of technologies used (i.e. solar thermal, heat pumps etc). Tariffs for the RHI scheme depend on the size of the actual installation measured in kWh. Figures 2&3 show the different tariffs and respective size ranges.

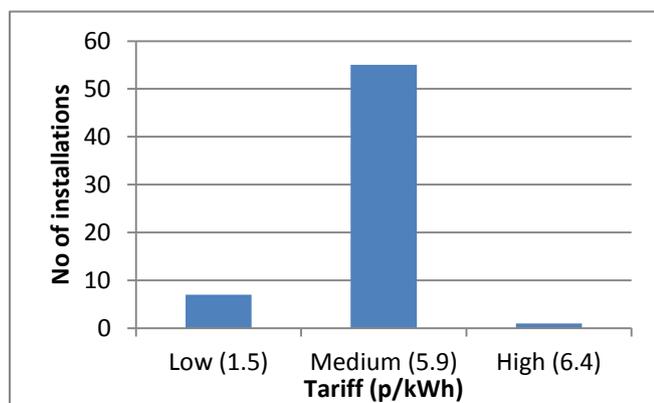


Fig.2

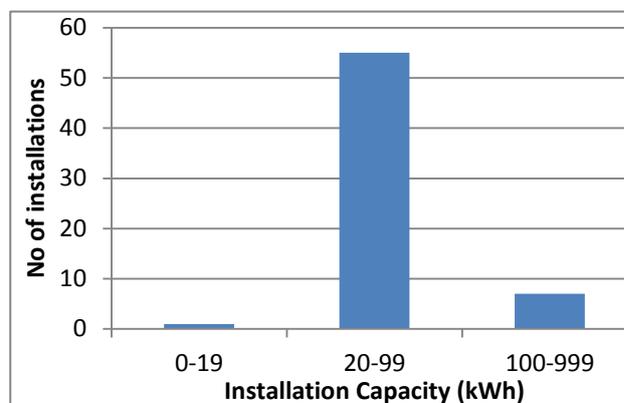


Fig.3

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Date: 3 December 2018

Dear Andrew

RHI LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW AND DRAFT ACTION PLAN – FINAL UPDATE

I am writing on behalf of the NICS Board to provide the Inquiry Team with the final update on the RHI Lessons Learned Review and Draft Action Plan. This was agreed by the Board on 30 November 2018.

The Lessons Learned report was compiled in summer 2017 to cover systemic and generic issues identified through a review of PWC's unfinished fact finding investigation into the operation of the RHI scheme. Its purpose was to allow for action to be taken centrally and by individual Accounting Officers on such issues prior to any outcome from the RHI Inquiry. As requested by the Inquiry Chair, it has remained in draft and has not attempted to pre-empt or anticipate the Inquiry outcomes.

The last update was provided on 30 April 2018.

The report attached reflects the final updates provided by Departments against their draft action plans. All Departments report good progress in their implementation and we now believe that the work on these generic issues has been taken as far as practicable, pending the Inquiry report. As such, no further updates will be sought from Departments and we would propose that this should be regarded as the final update against the Lessons Learned work that we will be reporting to the Inquiry.



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11 December 2018

Dear Sir Patrick,

RHI INQUIRY – NICS RESPONSE

In my witness statement to the Inquiry on 22 October 2018 (192/2018) I indicated that I would write setting out the steps we are taking across the NICS to respond to the RHI scheme and to ensure that, as a civil service, we can deliver for and have the confidence of the society we serve. We await, of course, your assessment of the contributory factors that led to the failure of the Scheme, which will set our response in a fuller and better context, but I hope what follows continues to be helpful in ensuring early and proportionate action on the lessons that are already clear.

I referred to three phases of our response. Firstly, in response to the Lessons Learned reports prepared by PWC, we have been implementing an action plan, on which the Inquiry has been briefed already. Bill Pauley wrote to the Secretary to the Inquiry on



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