

Hogg, Philip

From: SEAN MCNAUGHTON
Sent: 14 June 2016 14:29
To: Private Office DAERA
Subject: McNaughton Family Farming Crisis

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Categories: Dark Purple

14 June 2016

Dear Minister

Following your recent appointment I would like to draw to your attention a serious crisis that has developed on our family farm. After installing a biomass boiler in October 2015, we were informed in February 2016 that our RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) application had not been successfully submitted by Action Renewables in Belfast who administered the paperwork to Ofgem.

There is in the region of £250,000.00 at stake which could possibly put us out of business through no fault of our own.

I would appreciate if you could meet with us to discuss this problem and its implications.

Kind regards
Anne and Sean McNaughton

INVITATION ADVICE

Date Received: 15 June 2016
 Invitation From: Anne & Sean McNaughton
 Location: N/A
 Day of Event: N/A
 Referred To:

INV No: INV/1099/2016
 Organisation: N/A

Date of Event: N/A

Time of Event: N/A

TO BE RETURNED TO THE PRIVATE OFFICE BY NOON 22 JUNE 2016**EVENT**

Anne & Sean McNaughton have emailed you asking to meet to discuss their Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) application for the installation of a biomass boiler. They say that their application has not been successfully submitted by Action Renewables to Ofgem.

Reasons to accept/decline the invitation

The Northern Ireland RHI is a scheme to encourage the uptake of renewable heat. It offers payments over 20 years to those who convert to renewable heating technologies such as biomass boilers. The Department for the Economy NI (DfE) is responsible for matters concerning the scheme. Administration is carried out by OFGEM (the GB energy Regulator) across the UK. Action Renewables is a company which promotes renewable technologies and acts as a third party in the application process.

DfE (in its former guise as DETI) has had significant communication on this case with the McNaughtons and their public representatives. The issue concerns the timing of the McNaughton's application which, in turn, affects the levels of support they can receive (although the RHI scheme closed recently the McNaughtons are in time to receive payments under it). The case has been investigated by OFGEM and was raised again with them by DETI. These investigations concluded that responsibility for any failings in the application process did not lie with OFGEM. Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

We understand that the McNaughton's have written in similar terms to OFMDFM. DfE officials' advice will be for that meeting to be declined.

The former Department of the Environment had, and DAERA has, no role in the administration of the scheme.

DAERA has no grants available for renewable schemes under the Rural Development Programme.

I recommend that the invitation be declined.

Role of Minister at event

N/A

Departmental Priority

High Medium Low Decline

(to indicate priority double click on appropriate box and mark checked)

Presentational Issues

None

Name of official to contact for further details if required:

Michael McCallion

Is the Permanent Secretary required to attend?

Yes No

Name and date cleared by Grade 7 or above

CC List:

Noel Lavery
David Small
John Mills
Tim Irwin
Gareth Evans
David Watson
Philip Hogg

PRIVATE OFFICE USE

Other Events Scheduled for the above date

SpAd comments, signature & date

Minister's Decision

Accept Recommendation
Decline Recommendation
Meeting with Officials to be offered
More Information required (as specified below)

Minister's Comments

From the Office of the Minister
Michelle McIlveen MLA



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Mr. & Mrs. McNaughton

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Room 438
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email:
private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: INV/1099/2016

Date: June 2016

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2016 requesting a meeting to discuss your application under the Renewable Heat Incentive for the installation of a biomass boiler.

I am sorry to hear of your difficulties but the Renewable Heat Incentive is the responsibility of the Department for the Economy (and, prior to that, the former Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment). I understand that your case has been raised previously with that Department. As my Department has no responsibility for the administration of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, I do not believe any meeting would help to progress the issues you raise. However, I wish you well in attempting to resolve your difficulties.

I am copying my reply to my Ministerial colleague Simon Hamilton in the Department for the Economy.

MICHELLE MCILVEEN MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can
contact the Department via the Next Generation Text
Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

