

**From:** Johnston, Chris  
**To:** [Hughes, Seamus](#);  
**cc:** [Wightman, Stuart](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough  
**Date:** 04 September 2014 12:48:00

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Dear Seamus and Stuart,

Thank you for taking the time to visit us here at Hillsborough earlier this week and allowing us to outline the areas associated with the N.Irish potential for sustainable biomass production and heat / energy provision (and indeed to also link the associated waste water treatment as outlined recently to your previous colleagues (Stuart) in DRD). We have a growing biomass “Wood Chip” sector fuelling the medium to large boiler (generally not the domestic ref pellet !). Both from an agricultural point of view with reference to cutting fuel costs and GHGs but also the role the rural and agricultural areas can have in feeding into the legitimate energy supply chain which can be profitable and local employment generating activities. If the opportunity arose to further these discussions, I would be very keen to be involved at any level or stage and help wherever I could.

As I mentioned to you I was with CAFRE that afternoon as I sit on the management committee for the CAFRE (POFRE) “Practical On-Farm Renewable Energy” event which we hold twice a year. I mentioned that as Seamus was away during the event, Stuart would be happy to give an overview of the current state of play with the RHI; an update essentially. If this is still ok Stuart would you drop David Trimble a line to confirm (02894426682 or [david.trimble@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:david.trimble@dardni.gov.uk))

David is also aware that Seamus is putting together a short article for the POFRE booklet.

It was good to meet you and I hope to see you again soon

Regards

Chris

Chris Johnston | Environment and Renewable Energy Centre | AFBI | Tel: +44 (0) 28 92681540 | [chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk)

Sustainable Agri-Food Sciences Division

Crops, Grassland & Ecology Branch

Large Park

Hillsborough

BT26 6DR

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/chris-johnston/4/9b6/984>

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**From:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Sent:** 25 July 2014 12:45  
**To:** Johnston, Chris  
**Cc:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Chris

Thanks. Stuart and I will be with you around 10.00 am.

Regards

Seamus

**Seamus Hughes**

Renewable Heat

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

Netherleigh

Massey Avenue

Belfast, BT4 2JP

Tel: 028 9052 9532 (ext: 29532)

TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9532

Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

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**From:** Johnston, Chris  
**Sent:** 25 July 2014 11:31  
**To:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Cc:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Hi Seamus

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September it is. I have pencilled in the morning so just confirm when you would like to arrive and I look forward to meeting you then.

Regards  
Chris

Chris Johnston  
Tel:- 02892681540  
email:- [chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk)

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**From:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Sent:** 25 July 2014 10:25  
**To:** Johnston, Chris  
**Cc:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Hi Chris

Could we go with w/c 1 September, probably a morning would be best? The only date not suitable that week is Wednesday 3 so we can work to the best day/time that suits you that week. Could I suggest Tuesday 2 perhaps if that is good for you? If agreeable I will put in the diary here.

Regards

Seamus

**Seamus Hughes**

Renewable Heat  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 028 9052 9532 (ext: 29532)  
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9532  
Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

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**From:** Johnston, Chris  
**Sent:** 24 July 2014 17:50  
**To:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Subject:** RE: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Hi Seamus.

I am away the last 2 weeks of August so maybe early Sept for you and Stuart to visit if that suits. If you can give me a date I will put it in my diary.

(I am around most of next week but maybe Stuart is clearing things up before he heads on his leave).

Regards

Chris

Chris Johnston  
Tel:- 02892681540  
email:- [chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk)

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**From:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Sent:** 24 July 2014 16:11  
**To:** Johnston, Chris  
**Subject:** FW: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Seamus Hughes

Renewable Heat  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 028 9052 9532 (ext: 29532)  
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9532  
Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

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**From:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Sent:** 24 July 2014 16:07  
**To:** 'chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk'  
**Cc:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** FW: Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Hi Chris

It was good to have a chat earlier and make introductions. I will speak with colleagues here in DETI in relation to your query and the attached DECC document. I also mentioned to Stuart that you phoned and both he and I would certainly be interested in going down to see Environment and Renewable Centre there at Hillsborough so hopefully we can arrange that soon. Stuart is on leave from the middle of next week but perhaps we could work towards a date at the end of August or early September?

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Regards

Seamus

**Seamus Hughes**

Renewable Heat

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

Netherleigh

Massey Avenue

Belfast, BT4 2JP

Tel: 028 9052 9532 (ext: 29532)

TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9532

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**From:** Johnston, Chris

**Sent:** 24 July 2014 15:55

**To:** Hughes, Seamus

**Subject:** Environment and Renewable Energy Centre - AFBI Hillsborough

Dear Seamus,

Good to speak to you just now. I am hoping this is indeed the correct email address for you. The attached document is the one I was mentioning and I am interested in the methods by which DETI can assure that our biomass supply is indeed sustainable and by what systems ie by biomass suppliers regulation or biomass sourcing regulation – purely from ignorance as i just don't really know.

Our work here is from a DARD perspective where we are researching and demonstrating, to many varying groups, how farms can reduce their fuel costs and emissions and indeed how agriculture can play a role in the energy market by supplying biomass for essentially dedicated heat. We also join up energy crop plantations with waste water management (farm and waste water treatment) and this is how I originally came across Stuart Wightman. AFBI (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute) in Hillsborough has an Environment and Renewable Energy Centre (EREC) – officially opened 2009. A wide range of renewable energy schemes have been incorporated into the infrastructure of the site providing facilities for an extensive research programme into aspects of renewable energy relevant to the agriculture industry (and beyond).

If you and Stuart (and any other colleagues) were keen to visit the EREC (**Environment and Renewable Energy Centre**) at AFBI Hillsborough, I would

certainly enjoy the opportunity to show you around and discuss mutual aspects. Stuart was nearly out here recently but moved on so it would be good to meet him also.

Hopefully meet you soon

Regards

Chris

**Chris Johnston** | Environment and Renewable Energy Centre | AFBI | Tel: +44 (0) 28  
92681540 | [chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:chris.johnston@afbini.gov.uk)

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