

From: Johnston, Chris
To: ["Anderson, Mark"](#);
Subject: Confidential - RHI Press release
Date: 12 February 2016 14:22:00

Mark, Please keep confidential until published

Press release issued on behalf of Biomass
Energy – Northern Ireland (BENI):

**Closure of Renewable Heat Incentive is
severe blow to NI jobs**

*Up to 2000 jobs may be lost, with confidence
in the renewables sector damaged*

***BENI calls on DETI Minister to consult with
sector on achieving 2020 heat target of 10%***

Belfast, Thursday 11 February 2016: The announcement this week by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) Minister Jonathan Bell on the intention to close the domestic and non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes in Northern Ireland is a severe blow to the emerging renewable energy sector in Northern Ireland, according to suppliers group Biomass Energy NI. BENI chairman **John Martin** said this news was totally unexpected, and follows discussions with DETI on the RHI, as recently as January 8th, where there was no indication that the future of the NI scheme was in doubt.

Commenting, **John Martin** said: "This RHI cut-off is like a guillotine to the renewable energy sector, and follows closely the changes in supports to wind and renewable obligations certificates. We are extremely disappointed that DETI has not managed the

policy and applications in such a way that would provide longer term certainty to investors and developers in the market. Instead, we had positive changes to the RHI scheme announced in September 2015 which came into effect in November 2015. This resulted in a doubling of applications in a single month to 18 November compared to the previous three years.”

Mr Martin continued: “DETI says that around 6% of NI’s heating needs are now provided through renewable technologies, that the Executive’s target to achieve 4% renewable heat (a Programme for Govt target) has been exceeded and that this increased demand means the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. DETI’s analysis should have predicted this outcome. Instead, the Minister says ‘significant levels of additional funding will have to be found from within the NI Executive’s budget for the next five years to address the current deficit’. This is absolutely no comfort to the renewables sector, and in particular suppliers of wood chip and pellets, biogas producers and heating plant providers, investors and other developers who have been steadily building and investing in the renewable heat sector. Heat system installers have quotations out with customers, deposits for boilers in new dwellings and commercial properties which are not yet ready to install but have monies paid. Thousands of jobs are also at risk.

Mr Martin added: “And yesterday we had a further announcement from the Minister that the closure date will be extended by two weeks to 29th February. This extension is very little comfort to our members and other sector investors who have committed significant sums

in the renewable heat sector. If no RHI is available on these systems the customers will probably not proceed with the installation. Basically the market for biomass systems in NI is dead."

Mr Martin concluded: "A further 4% heat from renewables is still required to reach NI's 2020 target. This won't be achieved if the RHI is closed. The UK Government's Spending Review and Autumn Statement announced on 25th November 2015 included an energy package with Increased funding for the Renewable Heat Incentive to £1.15 billion in 2021 to ensure the UK continues progress towards its climate goals. The NI Government's announcements this week contradicts the wider UK policy. Therefore, BENI calls on the Minister and the Government to consult urgently with the heat sector to plan an appropriate way forward."

Ends

John Martin (BENI Chairman) Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry and Kirstie Cameron (BENI Management Committee) Personal information redacted by the RHI Personal information redacted by the RHI are available for interview.

For reference, issued by

Orlaith McVeigh | Action Renewables (BENI Member)

e. Orlaith.McVeigh@actionrenewables.co.uk; m. 028 9590 1197

About Biomass Energy – Northern Ireland

Biomass Energy – Northern Ireland (B.E.N.I.) <http://biomassenergy.com/> is a self funded organisation whose members are actively engaged in all aspects of the

production, marketing and use of biomass energy in Northern Ireland, with a strong emphasis on Biomass Renewable Heat. Members of BENI stem from across Northern Ireland. BENI is recognised as the voice of the biomass sector in NI. The organisation presents a wealth of knowledge to its members and the public, linking industry expertise at every level, from energy crop production to marketing. Members include users, suppliers, boiler installation companies, equipment suppliers and researchers and developers. BENI is also affiliated to the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA www.irbea.ie) and through this to the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM www.aebiom.org) and the European Biogas Association (EBA www.european-biogas.eu)

From: [Orlaith McVeigh](#)
cc: jcmfarms@aol.com; michaeljkane@; fergal.woods@; glendaletreeservices@gmail.com; tomhegan@; aandrgilbert@; c.woods@farmwoodlands.co.uk; roy@emeraldslerecycle.com; jhamilton@abercorn-estates.com; p.durkan@urbanbiomass.co.uk; eoin@; ianduff@; jgilliland@twisel.com; john@get-renewables.com; alanhegan@; jeffrey.borland@; davey.moybrone@; w.; mckenna@farmwoodlands.co.uk; Michael Doran; michaelhegarty@irbea.ie; [Johnston, Chris](#);
Subject: FW: Press release on closure of RHI issued on behalf of Biomass Energy – NI (BENI)
Date: 12 February 2016 08:37:36

Dear BENI Members,

A press release was sent out to media contacts this morning on behalf of BENI as per below.

This will be added to the website shortly

Kind regards,

Orlaith McVeigh

[Press release issued on behalf of Biomass Energy – Northern Ireland \(BENI\):](#)

Closure of Renewable Heat Incentive is severe blow to NI jobs

Up to 2000 jobs may be lost, with confidence in the renewables sector damaged

BENI calls on DETI Minister to consult with sector on achieving 2020 heat target of 10%

Belfast, Thursday 11 February 2016: The announcement this week by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) Minister Jonathan Bell on the intention to close the domestic and non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes in Northern Ireland is a severe blow to the emerging renewable energy sector in Northern Ireland, according to suppliers group Biomass Energy NI. BENI chairman **John Martin** said this news was totally unexpected, and follows discussions with DETI on the RHI, as recently as January 8th, where there was no indication that the future of the NI scheme was in doubt.

Commenting, **John Martin** said: "This RHI cut-off is like a guillotine to the renewable energy sector, and follows closely the changes in supports to wind and renewable obligations certificates. We are extremely disappointed that DETI has not managed the policy and applications in such a way that would provide longer term certainty to investors and developers in the market. Instead, we had positive changes to the RHI scheme announced in September 2015 which came into effect in November 2015. This resulted in a doubling of applications in a single month to 18 November compared to the previous three years."

Mr Martin continued: “DETI says that around 6% of NI’s heating needs are now provided through renewable technologies, that the Executive’s target to achieve 4% renewable heat (a Programme for Government target) has been exceeded and that this increased demand means the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. DETI’s analysis should have predicted this outcome. Instead, the Minister says ‘significant levels of additional funding will have to be found from within the NI Executive’s budget for the next five years to address the current deficit’. This is absolutely no comfort to the renewables sector, and in particular suppliers of wood chip and pellets, biogas producers and heating plant providers, investors and other developers who have been steadily building and investing in the renewable heat sector. Heat system installers have quotations out with customers, deposits for boilers in new dwellings and commercial properties which are not yet ready to install but have monies paid. Thousands of jobs are also at risk.

Mr Martin added: “And yesterday we had a further announcement from the Minister that the closure date will be extended by two weeks to 29th February. This extension is very little comfort to our members and other sector investors who have committed significant sums in the renewable heat sector. If no RHI is available on these systems the customers will probably not proceed with the installation. Basically the market for biomass systems in NI is dead.”

Mr Martin concluded: “A further 4% heat from renewables is still required to reach NI’s 2020 target. This won’t be achieved if the RHI is closed. The UK Government’s Spending Review and Autumn Statement announced on 25th November 2015 included an energy package with Increased funding for the Renewable Heat Incentive to £1.15 billion in 2021 to ensure the UK continues progress towards its climate goals. The NI Government’s announcements this week contradicts the wider UK policy. Therefore, BENI calls on the Minister and the Government to consult urgently with the heat sector to plan an appropriate way forward.”

Ends

John Martin (BENI Chairman) Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry is available for interview.

For reference, issued by

Orlaith McVeigh | Action Renewables (BENI Member)

e. Orlaith.McVeigh@actionrenewables.co.uk; m. 028 9590 1197

About Biomass Energy – Northern Ireland

Biomass Energy – Northern Ireland (B.E.N.I.) <http://biomassenergyni.com/> is a self-funded organisation whose members are actively engaged in all aspects of the production, marketing and use of biomass energy in Northern Ireland, with a strong emphasis on Biomass Renewable Heat. Members of BENI stem from across Northern Ireland. BENI is recognised as the voice of the biomass sector in NI. The organisation presents a wealth of knowledge to its members and the public, linking industry expertise

at every level, from energy crop production to marketing. Members include users, suppliers, boiler installation companies, equipment suppliers and researchers and developers. BENI is also affiliated to the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA www.irbea.ie) and through this to the European Biomass Association (AEBIOM www.aebiom.org) and the European Biogas Association (EBA www.european-biogas.eu)

Kind regards,

Orlaith McVeigh
Project Manager

Email: orlaith.mcveigh@actionrenewables.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 28 9590 1197

Website: www.actionrenewables.co.uk



Action Renewables is offering an unrivalled **ROC accreditation and ROC trading service** for both large and small scale generators. For further information please contact techteam@actionrenewables.co.uk. Alternatively please visit our website by following the link: <http://actionrenewables.co.uk/roc-trading/>

Action Renewables is now offering **RHI Accreditation services**. For further information please contact RHI@actionrenewables.co.uk or 028 9072 7768. Alternatively, please visit our website by following the link: <http://www.actionrenewables.co.uk/services/rhi-accreditation/>

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

This email and any attachments to it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Action Renewables.

If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must neither take any action based upon its contents, nor copy or show it to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

Disclaimer: Any technical data or material provided in this email are subject to technical alterations, errors and omissions. The content of this email does not constitute any legally binding offer or binding agreement with anyone or any third party. All transactions which may be discussed in the content of this email are subject to fully signed contract.

From: [Anderson, Mark](#)
To: [Johnston, Chris;](#)
Subject: Re: Confidential - RHI Press release
Date: 12 February 2016 14:55:41

Not sure this really hits the point

First half is agreeing with DETI about their issues.

!!

On 12 Feb 2016, at 14:22, Johnston, Chris <Chris.Johnston@afbini.gov.uk> wrote:

Mark, Please keep confidential until published

.....

Press release issued on behalf of
Biomass Energy – Northern
Ireland (BENI):

**Closure of Renewable Heat
Incentive is severe blow to NI
jobs**

*Up to 2000 jobs may be lost, with
confidence in the renewables
sector damaged*

*BENI calls on DETI Minister to
consult with sector on achieving
2020 heat target of 10%*

**Belfast, Thursday 11 February
2016:** The announcement this
week by Department of
Enterprise, Trade and Investment
(DETI) Minister Jonathan Bell on
the intention to close the domestic
and non domestic Renewable