

**From:** [Wightman, Stuart](mailto:Wightman,Stuart)  
**To:** [ceo@centreministries.org](mailto:ceo@centreministries.org)  
**Cc:** [McGready, Linda](#); Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry; [Crawford, Andrew](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Stevenson, Valerie \(DETI Private Office\)](#); [Sinton, Dan](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Biomass Contact  
**Date:** 28 October 2014 09:44:45

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Mr Baxter, thank you for your query below on biomass tariffs for the NI Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.

I can confirm that the NI tariffs for renewable heat are lower than those offered in the GB scheme as they are designed against an oil counterfactual rather than a natural gas counterfactual as in GB. This reflects the 2 heat markets with oil the dominant heating fuel in NI at 75%+ and natural gas the dominant in GB 70%+. Setting the counterfactual position against oil within the NI scheme reflects the likelihood that the majority of people switching to renewable heat will be displacing oil. As oil is a more expensive fossil fuel, less of an incentive is required to switch to renewable heat. NI consumers should not be disadvantaged in comparison to GB consumers, as whilst the tariff levels are lower the ongoing savings that can be expected from switching to renewable heat will be considerably higher for NI consumers. Therefore the overall benefit for the consumer is similar. Also, with the proposed Domestic RHI scheme to be launched later this year, Northern Ireland customers will receive a technology based upfront payment which is not available to GB domestic customers.

In addition to introducing a Domestic RHI Scheme later this year, DETI will be taking forward proposals to extend the existing Non-domestic scheme in 2015. Some of the issues that are being considered as part of this extension are:

- A specific tariff level for deep geothermal heating (currently treated like ground source heat pumps);
- The introduction of tariff for Air Source Heat Pumps;
- The need for support for large biomass installations (>1MW); and
- The potential development of an “uplifted” tariff for community or district heating schemes.

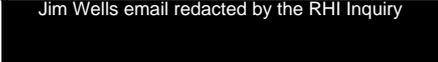
In addition, the Department will be reviewing the current tariff bandings including the existing biomass banding that you have referred to below. The tariff bandings of the existing GB scheme will be factored into this review.

Unfortunately, I am out of the office today, but please contact me on 90529425 if you wish to discuss further.

Thanks

**Stuart Wightman**  
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From: **Harry Baxter** <[ceo@centreministries.org](mailto:ceo@centreministries.org)>  
Date: Thu, Sep 4, 2014 at 1:56 PM  
Subject: Renewable Heat Incentive  
To:  Jim Wells email redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Jim,

I e-mailed you about this when you were on holiday.

I'm keen to open a discussion with someone (probably Arlene's dept) regarding the disparity between GB & NI on this.

We were early adopters of alternative energy, installing a 199 Kwth biomass system at Castlewellan Castle in 2010.

The legislation in GB allows for a payment of 8.4p/Kwh (dropping to 7.1p next mth) for boilers up to 200 Kwth. Above 200 Kwth there is a sliding scale back to 2p.

[http://www.icax.co.uk/Renewable\\_Heat\\_Incentive.html](http://www.icax.co.uk/Renewable_Heat_Incentive.html)

In NI, the payment of 6.3p is only available up to 100 Kwth, thereafter dropping to 1.5p.

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/renewable-heat-incentive>

Those installing today are using various means to split their systems into 2 or more parts & installing a series of 99 Kwth boilers. We didn't try to play games with our installation & are now being punished for being genuine early adopters.

I would like DETI to look at mirroring the scheme on offer in GB. Can you move this on for me?

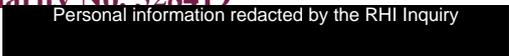
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*Kind Regards,*

**Harry Baxter**

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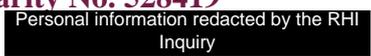
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*Kind Regards,*

**Harry Baxter**

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