

**From:** [Wightman, Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Sinton, Dan](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Willis, Adele](#)  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes to nirhi  
**Date:** 09 July 2015 09:59:17

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Chris

Please see email below from the poultry industry seeking grace periods to the proposed tariff changes we're planning in October. This is the NIRO all over again. As soon as the final policy is published, the flood gates are likely to open in terms of correspondence from the industry.

To try and minimise this and to accommodate any businesses which have already committed to an investment decision based on the current tariff rates, we're exploring the possibility of being able to stand over the current rates for anyone who can provide documentation to show that they have already entered into an agreement with the bank (or applied for planning permission) before the Final policy was published. This will probably have to be timebound – 6-9 months. We will need to discuss this with Ofgem to see if this is workable before we can confirm this. In terms of budget management, we'll be able to factor these cases into our forecasts going forward.

Stuart

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**From:** Tom Forgrave [mailto:Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Sent:** 08 July 2015 23:04  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Sinton, Dan  
**Subject:** proposed changes to nirhi

Dear Mssrs Wightman, Hughes and Sinton

Regarding the proposed changes to NIRHI being discussed at the present time could I please ask that you give consideration to not rushing through any changes. The proposed date of 1st Oct 15 does not give the poultry industry in NI time to adapt to a new tariff.

The poultry industry has a particularly large heat requirement and the NIRHI has proven to be very effective at encouraging farmers to be more environmentally sustainable and in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, primarily LPG.

Many farmers, myself included, are in the planning process to build new poultry sheds for Moypark. This is a long and complicated process with a timeframe of anywhere between 6 and 12 months from planning applications being submitted to biomass boilers being commissioned and chickens placed in sheds. Cash flow projections have been presented to banks to prove the ability to repay loans of between £350k and £1m over a 10 yr period. These cash flow projections were submitted based on including an NIRHI of 6.3p/kw (pre-April 15) alongside the income from the poultry.

If the proposed 2 tier tariff system is implemented before these new sheds are passed by planning, cash flows will not match the projections submitted to the banks and it will put in serious jeopardy the viability of many of these expansion plans. The banks may reconsider their loan offers and farmers may not be able to proceed with their planned expansion.

We fully appreciate that tariffs may have to mirror what is already in place in mainland UK and that a 2 tier payment structure is a proven model. What we would ask is for a

period of grace to be put in place for those who are currently in the process of planning or building. If it is impractical for this period to remain open-ended could the 1st Jan 2016 be considered as a realistic date for the change to be implemented?

Regards

Tom Forgrave

Chairman of Moypark Growers Committee (Ballymena)  
Vice-Chair UFU Poultry Committee