

From: [Hughes, Seamus](#)
To: ["Christopher Osborne"](#)
Cc: [Wightman, Stuart](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed changes to the NIRHI
Date: 09 July 2015 13:57:41

Good afternoon Chris

Thank you for your email.

We have been taking views from Moypark and a range of stakeholders over recent days including what has come forward from UFU and are currently assessing those views and how we might move forward. The potential for a grace period is a difficult one given that we are currently already over budget and this position needs to be addressed urgently. That said we are of course understanding of people who have already made commitments and we will do what we can to assist those in this position so that they are not disadvantaged. In terms of consultation, DETI consulted formally on the phase 2 review of the RHI in late 2013 and this included proposals for cost control. It is the outworking from this consultation that is being taken forward now.

We will keep you informed on developments over the coming weeks.

Regards

Seamus

Seamus Hughes

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From: Christopher Osborne [mailto:christopher@ufuhq.com]
Sent: 09 July 2015 11:26
To: Hughes, Seamus
Cc: Wightman, Stuart
Subject: Proposed changes to the NIRHI

Good morning Seamus,

I trust you are well.

It has been brought to my attention that changes are due to be introduced for the NIRHI on 1 October 2015. The UFU would have welcomed the opportunity to contribute for the debate on these changes and I am led to believe that a decision is being made before the summer recess and we are disappointed that we were not consulted. In light of the short notice, the UFU are calling upon DETI to consider a grace period for farmers and landowners who are in the planning process or are nearing completion of a renewable heating project.

In addition, I am led to believe that our Poultry Chairman wrote to DETI to set out his concerns and the reply he was blunt and unhelpful, “ I am not buying this”. In my 10 years of dealing with Northern Ireland government departments I do not recall reading such a dismissive and rude correspondence and our Chairman is entitled to feel aggrieved at this unprofessional attitude.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Chris Osborne
Senior Policy Officer
Dairy and Rural Enterprise