

From: [Vaughan, Helen](#)
To: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
Cc: [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#); [Anderson, Gail](#); [Briggs, Peter](#)
Subject: RHI
Date: 13 January 2016 14:55:40

John,

Further to discussion – key issues arising from meeting this morning with Paul and suggested dates for key steps going forward. All incredibly tight and relies, in particular, on quick turnaround by Minister at key points – I understand he’s away on trade mission from next Thursday, no information on box closures yet.

Meeting with Paul

- We can’t provide for notice of suspension in advance of legislation coming in.
- High risk in going forward without any consultation (notwithstanding the fact that if budget not available we see no choice but to close/suspend).
- If we consult (even a short consultation, given it’s on a single issue really) then we wouldn’t need to provide for a minimum date for notice and indeed such notice could be very short (matter of days after legislation comes in) as people will have had fair warning.
- We can provide for the legislation to simply close the scheme (no notice and suspension) – we talked about how this might be presented as an option in the consultation

Key dates going forward

By **Monday 18/1** – Submission to Minister with:

- a) draft consultation;
- b) draft letter to ETI Committee (given urgency we will have to explain why we must publish in advance of their meeting)
- c) version 1 of an Executive paper – which will note consultation is underway and that the outcome of consultation will be addressed in final version of paper. Views of Executive colleagues also sought at this stage.

By **Wed 20/1** – Minister must clear and consultation etc published same day (3 week period for consultation takes us to 10/2)

10/2 – consultation closes and we’ll have comments back on version 1 of Executive paper

11/2 – we will set aside that day to consider comments and in particular whether any options identified in absence of additional funding being allocated by Executive

12/2 – submission to Minister on outcome of consultation and:

- a) Final version of Executive paper for clearance – we will ask Executive to note, that if additional funding is not approved by end of February, then DETI Minister will proceed to close/suspend (subject of course to outcome of consultation)
- b) SL1 for closure/suspension legislation subject to Executive decision by 25/2 to allocate

additional funds
Minister to clear by Monday 15/2

Assume Executive meeting will be either **18th or 25th February**

ETI Committee meeting **23 February** (SL1 clearance)

26/1 – Lay Regulations

ETI Committee meeting **1 March** (clear draft Regs)

7th or 8th – debate on Regulations

Regs come into operation **on 9th March** and publish notice immediately (if suspending)