

**From:** [Hughes, Seamus](#)  
**To:** [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Edmund Ward](#); [Teri Clifton](#); [Katy Read](#); [Willis, Adele](#); [Briggs, Peter](#); [Mhairi McQuillan](#)  
**Subject:** Note of DETI - Ofgem RHI teleconference meeting - 26 November 2015 (OFFICIAL)  
**Date:** 27 November 2015 09:25:38  
**Attachments:** [Note of DETI Ofgem RHI Teleconference meeting.docx](#)

---

Folks

As agreed at our meeting yesterday going forward we will produce a short note of each teleconference meeting setting out action points. Attached for your information is a note of yesterday's meeting.

Regards

Seamus

Adele

Can you please arrange with Linda to set up a new file container on TRIM. I suggest we use the title “ **DETI/ OFGEM monthly RHI meetings**”

## **Seamus Hughes**

Energy Efficiency Branch  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 028 9052 9532 (ext: 29532)  
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9532  
Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)



[NI Year of Food & Drink 2016](#)

**Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?**

## NOTE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING BETWEEN DETI AND OFGEM RE RHI – 26 NOVEMBER 2015

### Present

#### DETI

Stuart Wightman  
Seamus Hughes  
Adele Willis  
Peter Briggs (part)

#### Ofgem

Edmund Ward  
Teri Clifton  
Mhairi MCQuillan  
Katy Read

### Introduction

1. Monthly telecon meetings have been taking place over several months in the run up to the introduction to the changes to the NI RHI effective from 18 November. These meetings will continue as a means of exchanging information and taking forward further changes to the NI RHI. It has been agreed that a short action point note will be prepared for each future meeting.

### Recent legislative changes

2. Stuart thanked Ofgem for the interaction and the work around the recently introduced changes to the NI RHI and welcomed ongoing engagement as further work is taken forward.
3. Teri reported that the increased applications received would take considerable time to process, (perhaps 12 to 18 months), and asked about the potential to fund additional temporary resource to assist. An additional three staff was suggested at a cost of £12k per month. Teri also raised the potential issue of cases falling dormant due to time delays and the need to address this in future legislation.

### Action

- **DETI to consider if there is any potential for additional funding before the end of the financial year or early next**
- **The potential issue of dormant cases will be considered in forthcoming legislative amendments.**

### Budget/Spending Review

4. The Chancellors statement on the £1.15b RHI expenditure increase by 2020/21 is positive at face value but budget pressures remain for the NI RHI and clarification on the impact is awaited. DETI has experienced difficulties in making appropriate contacts in DECC and Ofgem agreed to assist. It remains a concern for DETI that both schemes may need to close in March 2016.

### Action

- **Ofgem to provide DETI with relevant RHI finance contacts in DECC.**

**Further cost control legislation**

5. Further legislation to provide for the suspension/closure of the NI RHI in the absence of funding is to be taken forward in early 2016. Katy advised that Ofgem would shortly be providing written comment on the initial draft legislation. She highlighted the possible issue of sub delegation around the use of proposed notice provision and the possible impact of the application backlog. The treatment of additional capacity and preliminary accreditation were identified in discussion as other areas where further consideration is needed.

**Action**

- **Ofgem is to provide comment on the initial draft legislation.**
- **Follow up engagement between respective officials.**

**Audit Inspections**

6. The issue of onsite audit inspections was discussed and it was confirmed that 6 NI inspections are due to be completed over the coming weeks. There was discussion around the potential for increased audit inspections. Stuart indicated that DETI has an additional £25k available before the end March 2016. Edmund agreed to consider with Ricardo how many inspections this extra funding could facilitate. Edmund also suggested the possibility of DETI engaging Ricardo directly on additional inspections but Stuart ruled this out as a single tender action for this work would not be appropriate.

**Action**

- **Ofgem to advise DETI on how many additional inspections the available £25k could fund.**
- **DETI to consider the availability of further funding for audits in 2016/17.**
- **DETI to consider the possibility of directly procuring a separate arrangement for NI audit inspections.**