

## NOTE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING BETWEEN DETI AND OFGEM RE RHI – 16 February 2016

### Present

#### DETI

Stuart Wightman  
Seamus Hughes  
Adele Willis  
Peter Briggs

#### Ofgem

Edmund Ward  
Teri Clifton  
Mhairi McQuillan  
Jane Pierce

### Suspension of RHI schemes

1. DETI gave an update on the position of the draft regulations. The legislation was agreed by the NI Assembly on Monday and the scheme will close on 29 February. There has been press coverage of the closure.
2. Ofgem are making every effort to ensure that IT systems are up & running for the acceptance of applications up to the deadline. In the event of IT difficulties people will be able to submit evidence of submission of applications before the deadline, eg screenshots.
3. Ofgem pointed out that it will be important to be firm with the deadline to ensure that all applications are treated equally.
4. DETI advised that, following the suspension of the schemes, the next steps will be to review the schemes. DETI will have a better idea of the budgetary position after all applications have been processed. DETI will discuss with DECC whether the GB scheme opening to applications from NI would be a possibility.
5. DETI agreed to send lines to take to ensure a consistent message.
6. Ofgem sought assurance that the scheme would not be closed earlier than the 29<sup>th</sup>, as this would cause issues. DETI confirmed that the Minister would not close the schemes earlier than the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Action:

- DETI to share LTT on closure

### Audit of commercial scheme

7. DETI advised that anonymous allegations regarding alleged abuses of the scheme were discussed at the ETI Committee. Additional audits have been discussed at previous DETI/Ofgem teleconferences, and following an internal audit recommendation DETI propose a joint review of the scheme with Ofgem. Ofgem suggested John Mills and Chris Poulton would be an appropriate level to agree a joint review, and DETI agreed to arrange for John to contact Chris.

**Action:**

- **John Mills to contact Chris**

**Current non-domestic applications**

8. Ofgem carrying out initial triage on Oct/Nov applications. Most of them appear to be good applications, however several have been returned for additional information. There are signs that application levels are beginning to increase.

**Funding for administration of scheme**

9. Ofgem will be looking at the funding of the scheme for 2016/17, and Chris may wish to discuss this with John.

**AOB**

10. Ofgem advised that the website application system would be offline for several hours on 17 February for maintenance.