

**From:** [Hughes, Seamus](#)  
**To:** [Briggs, Peter](#)  
**Subject:** FW: INV-0114-2016 : Request from Connel McMullan, MD of Alternative Heat, to meet with the Minister to discuss the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive  
**Date:** 03 March 2016 16:13:38  
**Attachments:** [INV114-16 Letter to Connel McMullan.pdf](#)

---

Peter

For info.

Regards

Seamus

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)

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Forsythe, Nicola On Behalf Of DETI Energy Mailbox  
**Sent:** 03 March 2016 16:13  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Cc:** Hughes, Seamus  
**Subject:** FW: INV-0114-2016 : Request from Connel McMullan, MD of Alternative Heat, to meet with the Minister to discuss the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

FOR INFO

Nicola Forsythe  
Co-ordination Branch  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment Netherleigh Massey Avenue Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel: 028 9052 9295 (ext: 29295)  
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9295  
Web: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [private.office@detini.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk) [<mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 03 March 2016 15:39  
**To:** Mills, John (DETI)  
**Cc:** Ingram, James; Cahoon, Gillian; Stevenson, Valerie (DETI Private Office); Dolaghan, Paul; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Kerr, Sean; Rooney, Eugene; Stewart, Chris (DETI); DG\_DETI Press Office; DETI Energy Mailbox  
**Subject:** INV-0114-2016 : Request from Connel McMullan, MD of Alternative Heat, to meet with the Minister to discuss the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

Raised By: Connel McMullan  
Reference: INV-0114-2016

Subject: INV-0114-2016 : Request from Connel McMullan, MD of Alternative Heat, to meet with the Minister to discuss the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

Referred To: JOHN MILLS

Date Referred: 03/03/2016

\*\*\*Please see attached letter issued to Connel McMullan today\*\*\*

Regards,  
James Ingram  
Private Office  
29504

Copied To For Information:  
Ingram, James; Cahoon, Gillian; PO CC Energy Division

From the Office of the Minister



Department of  
**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**  
[www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk)

NETHERLEIGH  
MASSEY AVENUE  
BELFAST  
BT4 2JP  
Tel: 028 90 529452  
Fax: 028 90 529545  
E Mail: [private.office@detini.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk)  
**INV114-16**

Connel McMullan  
Alternative Heat Ltd

[connelmcmullan@alternativeheat.co.uk](mailto:connelmcmullan@alternativeheat.co.uk)

3 March 2016

Dear Connel

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2016, pointing out your concerns about the proposed closure of the RHI and the impact on the renewable heating sector.

The Assembly has now agreed the legislation to close the RHI and both schemes will close to new applications at 11.59 pm on Monday 29 February 2016. There seems to have been a misunderstanding that the scheme was to close on 31 March 2016 and I'm afraid this is not reflected in the legislation which provided no closure date. I had warned that measures might have to be taken last November if Treasury funding was reduced and sadly, this was the case.

I must emphasise that this is not a decision that has been taken lightly. I recognise the impact that this will have on the local renewable heating industry. However, the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. Significant levels of additional funding are needed to meet existing RHI commitments and the Executive has to take into account the impact this will have on other priorities. My immediate priority has had to be to prevent further financial pressures in the short term.

Unfortunately, as closure is already determined for inescapable financial reasons, I am not sure I would be able to add anything at a meeting. However, once financial stability has been achieved I will consider wider proposals on the scheme's long term future and at that point, I would welcome your views and the views of others in the renewable heat sector.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Bell MLA**  
**Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment**