

From: [Hughes, Seamus](#)
To: [Briggs, Peter](#)
Subject: FW: INV-0163-2016 : Request from John Martin, Chair, Biomass Energy Northern Ireland (BENI), to meet with the DETI Minister to discuss the closure of Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive
Date: 03 March 2016 16:14:47
Attachments: [INV163-16 Letter to John Martin.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)
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-----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-0163-2016 : Request from John Martin, Chair, Biomass Energy Northern Ireland (BENI), to meet with the DETI Minister to discuss the closure of 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)
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Web: www.detini.gov.uk

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

From: private.office@detini.gov.uk [<mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk>]
Sent: 03 March 2016 14:19
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-0163-2016 : Request from John Martin, Chair, Biomass Energy Northern Ireland (BENI), to meet with the DETI Minister to discuss the closure of Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

Raised By: John Martin
Reference: INV-0163-2016

Subject: INV-0163-2016 : Request from John Martin, Chair, Biomass Energy Northern Ireland (BENI), to meet with the DETI Minister to discuss the closure of Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive

Referred To: JOHN MILLS

Date Referred: 03/03/2016

Please see attached letter issued to John Martin 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**
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INV 163-16

John Martin
Chair
Biomass Energy Northern Ireland (BENI)
Block C, Unit 1
Boucher Business Studios
Glenmachan Place
Belfast
BT12 5QW

3 March 2016

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2016, pointing out your concerns about the closure of the RHI and the impact on the renewable heating sector.

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, but the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. My immediate priority is therefore to prevent further financial pressures in the short term. Once this is achieved, I will consider wider proposals on the scheme's long term future. As the Assembly has now agreed closure on 29 February, I am not sure what I could add at a meeting at this time, but would welcome your views on proposals for the future in due course.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Bell MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment