

From: [Hughes, Seamus](#)
To: [Briggs, Peter](#)
Subject: FW: Closing Correspondence : COR-0062-2016 : RHI issues - Mr and Mrs Smith Banbridge
Date: 07 March 2016 10:55:06
Attachments: [COR 62 and 58 Min content.pdf](#)
[COR 062 Min signed.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

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>]
Sent: 07 March 2016 10:54
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: McLaughlin, Christine (DETI); Hegarty, Damien; Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; 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: Closing Correspondence : COR-0062-2016 : RHI issues - Mr and Mrs Smith Banbridge

Date: 07/03/2016

Raised By: Jim Wells MLA
Reference: COR-0062-2016

Subject: Closing Correspondence : COR-0062-2016 : RHI issues - Mr and Mrs Smith Banbridge

To: JOHN MILLS

CC: McLaughlin, Christine (DETI); Hegarty, Damien; Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; PO CC Energy Division

Please see final response as issued

Regards,
Christine McLaughlin
Private Office
29222



24/02/16

RESTRICTED - POLICY

Colly
1/3

From: John Mills

Date: 22 February 2016
Below

Copy Distribution List

To: 1. Timothy Cairns
2. Jonathan Bell MLA

COR 0062 & 0058/2016 RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

Issue: Correspondence from Jim Wells and Roy Beggs on RHI closure.

Timing: Due for reply 22 February.

Need for referral to the Executive: N/A

Presentational Issues: High interest from stakeholders and the media in relation to closure of the RHI schemes.

Freedom of Information: Not disclosable.

Financial Implications: Closure required to prevent further pressure on budgets.

Statutory Equality Obligations: N/A.

PFG/PSA implications: NI Renewable Heat Incentive supports the PFG interim target of 4% renewable heat by 2015 and the SEF 10% target by 2020.

Legislation Implications: Closure to take effect from 29 February.

Recommendation: That you respond to the MLAs using the draft provided at **Annex A and Annex B**).

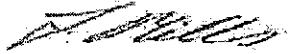
Background

1. Jim Wells MLA and Roy Beggs MLA have written to you on behalf of constituents Mr and Mrs Smith who are a couple building a new house and who they say have invested over £29,000 to install renewable energy. They based this decision on the £6,950 support they expected to receive through the RHI. The Smith's are concerned about the support being cut at short notice as they are some 6 to 8 weeks away from completion. The Smith's have suggested that exceptions be made for those who can prove that they have signed legally binding contracts to install renewable heating systems.

RESTRICTED - POLICY

Recommendation

2. That you respond to Jim Wells, MLA using the draft provided at **Annex A**, and to Roy Beggs, MLA using the draft at **Annex B**).



**JOHN MILLS
ENERGY DIVISION**

Distribution List

cc: Andrew McCormick
Chris Stewart
Stuart Wightman
Seamus Hughes
Ian McCrea MLA APS
Sean Kerr
Neth Energy

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP

Tel: 028 90 529452

Fax: 028 90 529545

Text Relay: 18001 028-9052-9452

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk

Your Ref: SD/2/16/KA/ES/JG

Our Ref: DETI COR 0062/2016

Jim Wells MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

29th
29 February 2016

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2016 in relation to the proposed closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and how it might impact on Mr and Mrs Smith.

Increased demand for both RHI schemes, together with reductions in available funding means the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. To meet RHI commitments for existing installations, significant levels of additional funding will have to be found from within the NI Executive's budget for the next five years to address the current deficit. Additional funding was sought but could not be secured from Treasury. In the circumstances I have no choice but to close both RHI schemes. Following approval of the legislation by the Assembly on the 15 February 2016, I will publish a Notice to close both RHI schemes from 29 February 2016. Any renewable heating systems installed, commissioned and applied for on or before this date will be eligible for RHI payments.

I must emphasise that this is not a decision that I have taken lightly. I recognise the impact that this will have on homeowners such as Mr and Mrs Smith who will not be able to complete their installations on time. However, my immediate priority is 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.

I still believe that the renewable sector can play a part in helping to reduce our CO2 emissions and bring investment to our economy. I am therefore open to suggestions on how we might engage with developers and installers and others to see where we might go in the future on renewable heat. This might involve consulting on the long term position, looking at developments in other jurisdictions or considering options.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan F. Bell

JONATHAN BELL MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment