

From: [Private Office DETI](#)
To: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Subject: RE: RHI scheme cuts
Date: 07 March 2016 14:22:00
Attachments: [COR 053 E. Smith PS Signed.pdf](#)

Mrs Smith

Please find attached response.

Regards

Damien

DETI Private Office

From: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Date: 10 February 2016 at 09:02:47 GMT
To: "jonathan.bell@mla.niassembly.gov.uk"
<jonathan.bell@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: RHI scheme cuts

Dear Jonathan,

Further to your announcement yesterday, I am writing to seek your help in connection with the RHI Scheme which is to be voted on in the assembly on Monday 16th February 2016. Our situation is that we have borrowed money and entered into a £29,700 contract to install renewable energy in our new home. We are a young professional couple in our twenties and are building our first home. As we wanted try and do our bit for the environment and build an energy efficient home, we made the decision on the understanding that we would receive RHI amounting to £6950 through the scheme. We are therefore really concerned and distressed to find that the scheme is being cut at such short notice without any consultation, or mechanism in place for those already in contracts to fulfill their obligations.

I understand budgetary pressures are largely responsible for this decision, however our assembly should also think about

budgetary implications for local tax-payers already in contracts and depending on the scheme.

I am therefore writing to ask for your assistance to ensure that there is a more reasonable plan or phased approach to this major

policy change. We are within 6-8 weeks of being able to commission and therefore fulfil the criteria for the scheme.

Thanking you in advance of your response.

Yours sincerely

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Tel: Personal information redacted
by the RHI Inquiry

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Email address: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

04 March 2016

Dear Mrs Smith

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2016 to the Minister in relation to the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The Minister has read your correspondence and asked me to reply on his behalf.

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.

In the circumstances the Minister felt he had no choice but to close both RHI schemes. Following approval of the legislation by the Assembly on the 15 February 2016, a Notice was published 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 the Minister has taken lightly. He recognises the impact that this will have on homeowners such as yourself who may not be able to complete their installations on time. However, the immediate priority is to prevent further financial pressures in the short term. Once this is achieved the Minister will consider wider proposals on the scheme's long term future.

Yours sincerely

SEAN KERR

Private Secretary to Jonathan Bell MLA