

From: Stuart Wightman**Tel No: 29425****Date: 8 June 2016****To: 1. John Robinson
2. Simon Hamilton MLA****Copy Distribution List below****COR 1022-2016 RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI)**

Issue: Correspondence from Sandra Overend MLA regarding her constituent Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive application.

Timing: Due for reply 13 June 2016.

Executive Committee Referral: N/A.

PFG Implications: N/A.

Presentational Issues: None.

FOI Implications: Not discloseable.

Financial Implications: N/A.

Legislation Implications: N/A.

Statutory Equality Obligations: N/A.

Recommendation: That you note the background to the issue and respond to Sandra Overend MLA using the draft provided at **Annex A**

BACKGROUND

1. Sandra Overend MLA has written to you about the delay in processing the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive application for her constituent Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry.
2. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was introduced in November 2012. It provides an ongoing financial incentive for non-domestic generators of renewable heat for 20 years. A similar scheme applies in Great Britain albeit with different tariff levels. The Scheme is administered on DfE's behalf by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (Ofgem).

RHI CLOSURE AND BACKLOG

3. Prior to legislative changes to the non domestic RHI scheme in November 2015 there was a spike in applications with 884 received in the last 6 weeks before the changes were in place. Ofgem had been working on this backlog when the closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes was announced in February 2016.
4. The RHI Schemes closed on 29 February 2016. There was a further spike in non domestic RHI applications during the last few weeks before scheme closure with 318 applications received adding to the existing backlog of applications to be processed. There are currently approximately 630 non domestic applications awaiting accreditation. This backlog should be processed by autumn 2016.

Recommendation

5. That you note the background to the issue and respond to Sandra Overend MLA using the draft provided at **Annex A**

STUART WIGHTMAN
Energy- Renewables Division
Ext. 29425

cc: John Robinson
Andrew McCormick
Chris Stewart
Alison Clydesdale
Lucy Marten
Seamus Hughes
Adele Willis
John Simms
Siobhan Tweedie
Press Office

Annex A

Sandra Overend MLA
Ulster Unionist Assembly Member for Mid-Ulster
Room 308
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Xx June 2016

Dear Sandra,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2016 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] regarding the delay in processing of his Renewable Heat Incentive application. Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Ofgem who administer the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme on behalf of the department have advised that [REDACTED] application was approved on 28 May 2016, with an effective date of 30 October 2015. The delay partly related to queries with his application; however he should receive confirmation of the approval imminently. Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

I can confirm RHI applications are processed in chronological order. However there may be cases that jump ahead if, for example, the application has no further queries, or information requests are returned quickly.

SIMON HAMILTON MLA
Minister for the Economy