



Department for

**Social  
Development**
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Our ref: COR/408/2012

From: Nelson McCausland  
 Minister for Social Development

Date: 30 May 2012

Arlene Foster  
 Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Dear Arlene

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May advising of your intention to launch the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme. I understand that the scheme was launched on 24 May.

I very much welcome this announcement which I feel complements the range of schemes my department has in place to improve the energy efficiency of households across Northern Ireland. You may be aware that I recently announced a new Boiler Replacement Scheme which offers a grant to owner occupiers to replace inefficient boilers which are at least 15 years old. I believe that improving the energy efficiency of dwellings will help us not only tackle, but also prevent fuel poverty which is one of my key priorities.

I hope this information is helpful.

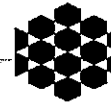
Yours sincerely

Nelson McCausland

**NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA**  
**Minister for Social Development**



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Our Ref: DETI SUB 250/2012

**From: Arlene Foster MLA**

**Date: 21 May 2012**

**To: Nelson McCausland MLA**

### **RENEWABLE HEAT PREMIUM PAYMENT SCHEME**

I wish to advise you that I will shortly be launching a Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) scheme. This scheme will allow all private sector domestic energy consumers to obtain financial support towards installing biomass boilers, heat pumps and thermal solar panels in place of their existing fossil fuel heating systems.

DFP clearance was given to an entire Renewable Heat project on 27 April 2012. A Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (NI RHI) is set to be launched later this year, once State Aid approval has been obtained and the appropriate legislation is in place. The RHI will be introduced in two phases. The first phase will include non domestic installations and a certain number of renewable technologies; phase two may incorporate additional technologies and will extend the scheme to the domestic sector. The RHPP scheme is being launched as an interim measure for domestic consumers until the introduction of the second phase of the RHI. I am hopeful that all necessary arrangements will be in place to enable a launch of the RHPP scheme during the week commencing 21 May 2012.

The RHPP aims to provide a capital incentive to all private households in Northern Ireland to replace their fossil fuelled heating and hot water systems with renewable heating alternatives. The RHPP will extend to all areas of Northern Ireland and cover electricity and fossil fuel private domestic consumers including natural gas consumers. The technologies to be covered are – airsource heat pumps, biomass boilers, ground source heat pumps and solar thermal. My officials will provide you with the support levels closer to my announcement.

The NI RHPP scheme will be administered within DETI Energy Division. Householders will apply direct to DETI where an assessment of eligibility will be undertaken. Successful applicants will then be issued with a time bound voucher, entitling them to a premium payment once their chosen technology has been suitably installed.

It is envisaged that the scheme will run for a period of at least one year from the launch date. Once the RHI is extended to the domestic sector, the RHPP will cease to operate. Installations made with the support of the RHPP scheme will remain eligible for an RHI but any future RHI support will be reduced to take account of payments under the RHPP.