

**From:** [Wightman, Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Private Office DETI](#)  
**Cc:** [Crawford, Andrew](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Cooper, Trevor](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [McCune, David](#); [McCay, Davina](#); [Sinton, Dan](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#); [Briggs, Peter](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [DG\\_DET1 Press Office](#); [Neth\\_Energy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ETI Committee query: LMU 67-14 - SL1 on RHI  
**Date:** 07 July 2014 16:26:42  
**Attachments:** [Annex A ETI query on Domestic RHI SL1.doc](#)  
[Submission response to ETI Committee queries on Domestic RHI SL1.DOCX](#)

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Please find attached Submission with response to ETI Committee queries on proposed Domestic RHI Scheme.

Thanks

**Stuart Wightman**

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**From:** Murray, John (DETI)  
**Sent:** 07 July 2014 14:33  
**To:** Mills, John (DETI)  
**Cc:** [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Crawford, Andrew](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Sterling, David](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [McCune, David](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [Sinton, Dan](#); [Robson, Rod](#); [McCay, Davina](#); [Private Office DETI](#); [DG\\_DET1 Press Office](#); [Neth\\_Energy](#)  
**Subject:** ETI Committee query: LMU 67-14 - SL1 on RHI

Please see attached request from David McCune covering a query from the ETI Committee.

As advised in my email of last Thursday the Committee did not clear the SL1 but did agree that the Chair could clear it during recess subject to a satisfactory response to the queries raised.

Thanks

John

John Murray

Legislative Monitoring Unit

Ext: 29637

**REQUEST TO DETI FROM THE ETI COMMITTEE**

At its meeting on 3 July 2014 the ETI Committee considered an SL1 in respect of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive.

Members asked the Department to clarify:

- a. how it communicates with the sector on these issues to ensure relevant stakeholders are kept informed of the timelines of the legislative processes; and
- b. whether deep geothermal energy is to be included in the scheme.

**DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE**

- a. A Public consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive was conducted between 22 July and 14 October 2013 which included three consultation events held in Belfast, Coleraine and Armagh. The results of the consultation are published on the DETI website. A Ministerial Press Release to publicise the scheme is planned once the ETI Committee has approved the SL1. A further Press Release is planned when the Regulations have been cleared by the Assembly and the scheme is open for applications.
- b. Whilst deep geothermal was considered in the consultation for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI), it was decided not to include it at this time and instead concentrate on renewable sources likely to have significant uptake in Northern Ireland. The current assessment is that deep geothermal is unlikely to make a significant contribution to the domestic heating market by 2020. However, the issue will be kept under review and could be included at a later date as the technology develops.

**Reply prepared by: Energy Division  
Date: 8 July 2014**

**From:** Stuart Wightman  
Energy Efficiency Branch  
Energy Division

**Date:** 7 July 2014

**To:** 1. Andrew Crawford  
2. Arlene Foster MLA

**DOMESTIC RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE – ETI COMMITTEE QUERY ON SL1**

**Issue:** Response to ETI committee queries on SL1 raised at its meeting on 3 July.

**Timing:** A response is due with the ETI Committee Clerk by Wednesday 23 July.

**Executive Committee Referral:** None

**PFG Implications:** The PSA targets for renewable heat are 4% by 2015 and 10% by 2020.

**Presentational Issues:** Likely to be significant interest from key stakeholders and the media. A press release will be prepared and issued in due course.

**FOI Implications:** Likely to be exempt under s.35 FOI – formulation of government policy.

**Financial Implications:** HMT has advised that £25m of AME is available up to 2015 for a Northern Ireland RHI with further AME budget profiled up to 2020.

**Legislation Implications:** Subordinate legislation required prior to launch of domestic RHI.

**Statutory Equality Obligations:** Equality screening completed and no equality implications identified.

**Recommendation:**

**That you:**

- a) **approve the draft response for issue to the ETI Committee, (Annex A).**

**Background**

1. At the ETI Committee meeting on 3 July clarification was sought in relation to how the Department communicates with the sector, and also whether deep geothermal energy is included in the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.

**Response to ETI Committee**

2. The proposed response to the ETI Committee summarises the consultation arrangements that were put in place and sets out the proposed plans for publicising the scheme once the SL1 is agreed and further arrangements once the Regulations are in place and the scheme is open for applications. It also clarifies the position with regard to the consideration around deep geothermal which is not included in the Domestic scheme.

**Recommendation**

3. I recommend that you approve the draft response for issue to the ETI Committee (**Annex A**).

**Stuart Wightman**  
**ENERGY DIVISION**

cc: Andrew McCormick  
Eugene Rooney  
John Mills  
Trevor Cooper  
Alistair Ross  
David McCune  
Davina McCay  
Dan Sinton  
Seamus Hughes  
Peter Briggs  
Glynis Aiken  
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