

**From:** [Rooney, Eugene](#)  
**To:** [Cooper, Trevor](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme  
**Date:** 11 February 2016 13:15:22  
**Attachments:** [Letter to DFP Minister.PDF](#)  
[image001.gif](#)  
[RHI Feb 11 20161.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Stevenson, Valerie (DETI Private Office)

**Sent:** 11 February 2016 12:07

**To:** Private Office DFP

**Cc:** PS Ministers; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); Rooney, Eugene; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Private Office DETI; Aiken, Glynis; Fullerton, Karen; Harding, Leander

**Subject:** Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme

**Importance:** High

Please see attached for the urgent attention of your Minister.

Regards

Valerie

**Valerie Stevenson**

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From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**

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Mervyn Storey MLA  
Minister of Finance  
DFP Private Office  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
Belfast  
BT3 9ED

*Dear Mervyn,*

*11<sup>th</sup>* February 2016

### **CLOSURE OF RENEWABLE HEAT SCHEME**

I am writing to confirm that the Assembly Debate on the RHI closure legislation has been scheduled for Monday 15 February which is the earliest possible opportunity. Subject to Assembly approval of the legislation I will subsequently issue a notice which will actually close the RHI to new applications (the legislation does not do this directly).

I have decided that the scheme will close on 29th February. This will effect closure as soon as practicable taking into account the need to address industry concerns and practicalities around the ending of the scheme. I understand that First and deputy First Ministers are content with this approach.

I attach a press notice which will announce this to give certainty to the industry.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister and the deputy First Minister.

Yours

*Jonathan F. Bell,*

**Jonathan Bell MLA**  
**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

11 February, 2016

**Bell announces extension to RHI closure date**

Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Jonathan Bell has announced that the domestic and non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes will remain open until February 29.

If legislation is approved by the Assembly on Monday, the earliest possible date for closure would have been midnight on Tuesday, February 16.

Jonathan Bell said: **“I have listened carefully to the concerns expressed in relation to both the non domestic and domestic RHI schemes and I fully appreciate that closure presents considerable difficulties for those who have invested in new technology and are in the midst of preparing for application.**

**“Having taken those concerns on board, rather than close the schemes to new applications on the earliest possible date, I am proposing that, pending Assembly approval, both schemes remain open for a further two weeks until February 29.”**

The Minister added: **“My Department will be carrying out a comprehensive review and audit, to ensure that the operation of the schemes is in compliance with the scheme requirements and the underpinning legislation.”**