

**From:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)  
**To:** [Harding, Leander](#); [McMurray, Stephen](#)  
**Cc:** [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Marten, Lucy](#); [Gaughran, Aine](#); [Conlan, Ciarrai](#); [McCann, Brendan](#); [Coyne, Terence](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY  
**Date:** 03 January 2017 17:07:19

---

Yes, many thanks.

---

**From:** Harding, Leander  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 17:04  
**To:** McMurray, Stephen; McCormick, Andrew (DFE)  
**Cc:** Stewart, Chris (DFE); Wightman, Stuart; Marten, Lucy; Gaughran, Aine; Conlan, Ciarrai; McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Subject:** RE: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Dear All,

I will send line below for clearance & will have to go to DAERA as well due to CAFRE reference.

“Officials from the then Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment met with representatives from the Ulster Farmers’ Union in July 2015. The outcome from this meeting was an agreed paper (prepared by CAFRE) setting out the heat demands of a typical poultry house. This paper and discussions at the meeting helped to inform the changes to the RHI scheme that were introduced in November 2015 and the introduction of a 400,000 kwh cap.

“The Department recognises, with hindsight, that earlier introduction of cost controls and disincentives to excess use of the scheme might well have reduced or prevented the spike in applications which forced the sudden suspension of the RHI in February 2016. Full understanding of why this happened will be the subject of the forthcoming independent investigation.”

Thanks  
Leander

---

**From:** McMurray, Stephen  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 16:55  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE)  
**Cc:** Stewart, Chris (DFE); Wightman, Stuart; Marten, Lucy; Gaughran, Aine; Conlan, Ciarrai; Harding, Leander; McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Subject:** Re: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Seems OK to me, small typo with repeat word 'that'

Stephen

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 January 2017 16:35  
**To:** McMurray, Stephen  
**Cc:** Stewart, Chris (DFE); Wightman, Stuart; Marten, Lucy; Gaughran, Aine; Conlan, Ciarrai; Harding, Leander; McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Subject:** RE: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Please see below including a couple of small changes on Leander's draft.

What we are not saying here is that the spike was linked to the delay in activating the tariff reductions that were under discussion in July 2015, but responding to that aspect of the UFU query is a much more complex point. Or could we go on to say, as a more direct comment on the point raised by Enda:

"The Department recognises, with hindsight, that that earlier introduction of cost controls and disincentives to excess use of the scheme might well have reduced or prevented the spike in applications which forced the sudden suspension of the RHI in February 2016. Full understanding of why this happened will be the subject of the forthcoming independent investigation."

What do you and colleagues think?

Many thanks.

---

**From:** Harding, Leander  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 16:07  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE)  
**Cc:** Stewart, Chris (DFE); Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Marten, Lucy; Gaughran, Aine; Conlan, Ciarrai  
**Subject:** FW: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Many thanks Chris,

From Stuart's info I have drafted line below. Grateful for any thoughts/changes/amendments.

A spokesperson for the Department for the Economy said: "**Officials from the then Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment met with representatives from the Ulster Farmers' Union in July 2015. The outcome from this meeting was an agreed paper (prepared by CAFRE) setting out the heat demands of a typical poultry house. This paper and discussions at the meeting helped to inform subsequent the changes to the RHI scheme that were introduced in November 2015 and the introduction of a 400,000 kwh cap.**"

---

**From:** Stewart, Chris (DFE)  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 15:51  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE); Harding, Leander  
**Subject:** Fw: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Andrew, Leander

This should help.

C

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** Wightman, Stuart <[Stuart.Wightman@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Wightman@economy-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 January 2017 14:55  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (DFE)  
**Cc:** Hughes, Seamus; Marten, Lucy  
**Subject:** Fw: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Chris

Seamus and I met with the UFU in July 2015.

Andrew is correct. Discussions with UFU informed the changes that were made in Nov 2015. What came out of the July meeting was an agreed paper (prepared by CAFRE) setting out the heat demands of a typical poultry house. This is what the 400,000 kwh cap was based on.

I do not recall UFU specifically warning us of a spike and the need to bring changes in sooner. The focus of the discussion was very much on the CAFRE paper. I do however recall UFU asking that we include grace periods like the NIRO for any changes that we might make. They were concerned that a number of their members would miss out with new poultry houses not due to be completed until 2016.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks, Stuart

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE) <[Andrew.McCormick@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.McCormick@economy-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 January 2017 14:15  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (DFE)  
**Cc:** Coyne, Terence; McCann, Brendan; All DFE Branches Press Office; Harding, Leander; Hughes, Seamus; Briggs, Peter; Marten, Lucy; Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** RE: Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Only those around at the time can help with details of any meeting with UFU in July 2015, but is it not the case that we acted on the concern in introducing the November 2015 changes? Or should UFU's points have warned us against delay in the tariff reductions?

Happy to discuss.

Many thanks.

---

**From:** Harding, Leander  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 13:32  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart; Hughes, Seamus; Briggs, Peter; Marten, Lucy  
**Cc:** Coyne, Terence; McCormick, Andrew (DFE); Stewart, Chris (DFE); McCann, Brendan; All DFE Branches Press Office  
**Subject:** Press Query: UFU RHI QUERY

Dear All,

Please see below the query below from the BBC. Would you be able to help?

Enda is hoping to run story this evening.

Thanks  
Leander

---

**From:** Enda McClafferty [<mailto:enda.mcclafferty@bbc.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 03 January 2017 13:22  
**To:** All DFE Branches Press Office  
**Subject:** UFU RHI QUERY

Hi there

I am seeking a response from the Department to a statement issued by the Ulster Farmers Union in Feb last year (see below) in which they state that they met with DETI officials in July 2015 and warned of the impending spike in applications to the RHI scheme.

I would like to know if this is the case, who was present at that meeting and what action was taken if any following this warning from the UFU.

Thanks

Enda McClafferty

<https://www.ufuni.org/news/ufu-slams-closure-of-renewable-heat-incentive-scheme>

-----  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of the BBC unless specifically stated.

If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system.

Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it and notify the sender immediately.

Please note that the BBC monitors e-mails sent or received.

Further communication will signify your consent to this.

-----