

From: **Stuart Wightman**

Tel No: 29425

Date: **5 October 2016**

To: **1. John Robinson**
2. Simon Hamilton MLA

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COR 1238-2016 RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI)

Issue: Correspondence from Jim Allister MLA regarding his constituents Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry and their non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive application.

Timing: Due for reply 6 October 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 Mr Allister MLA using the draft provided at **Annex A**

BACKGROUND

1. Jim Alistair MLA has written to you about the delay in processing the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive application for his constituents Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry, (**Annex B**).
2. The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was introduced in November 2012. 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 286 non domestic applications awaiting accreditation. This backlog should be processed by autumn 2016.
5. The application from the Personal information redacted by the DPA was received on 29 February 2016 just prior to the closure to new applications. Ofgem has advised that RHI applications are processed in chronological order and has confirmed today that this application has now been approved.

Recommendation

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



STUART WIGHTMAN
Energy- Renewables Division
Ext. 29425

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

Annex A

Mr Jim Allister QC MLA
38 Henry Street
Harryville
Ballymena
Co Antrim
BT42 3AH

Xx October 2016

Dear,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September on behalf of your constituents Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry regarding the processing of their Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme application.

Ofgem, who administer the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme on behalf of the Department, has advised that RHI applications are processed in chronological order and has confirmed that the Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry application has now been approved.

SIMON HAMILTON MLA



Northern Ireland
Assembly

E-mailed to: private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Ref: JA/PM/DAERA/7484-1

Economy minister
Department for the Economy
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

28th September 2016

Dear Minister,

Re: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry, Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
RHI No: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

My above constituents applied months ago under the scheme supporting biomass boilers. They met the end of February 2016 deadline.

Yet, 7 months later they are still waiting for approval. Why the inordinate delay?

I trust this matter can be brought to a speedy conclusion.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allister', on a light-colored background.

J H Allister QC MLA