

From: Stuart Wightman

Tel No: 29425

Date: 12 August 2016

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

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COR 1143-2016 RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI)

Issue: Correspondence from Patsy McGlone MLA regarding his constituent Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry and non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive applications.

Timing: Due for reply 19 August 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 Patsy McGlone MLA using the draft provided at **Annex A**

BACKGROUND

1. Patsy McGlone -MLA has written to you about the delay in processing the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive applications for his constituent 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 395 non domestic applications awaiting accreditation. This backlog should be processed by autumn 2016.
5. Ofgem has advised that the four applications from Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry have been approved today, (12 August 2016). Formal accreditation letters will now issue and RHI payments will follow in due course.

Recommendation

5. That you note the background to the issue and respond to Patsy McGlone 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

Patsy McGlone MLA
SDLP Constituency Office
54a William Street
Cookstown
BT80 8NB

Xx August 2016

Dear,

Thank you for your email of 11 August 2016 on behalf of your constituent Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry regarding the processing of his Renewable Heat Incentive applications.

Ofgem, who administer the non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme on behalf of the department, has advised that Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry applications were approved on 12 August 2016. Formal accreditation letters will now issue and RHI payments will follow in due course.

SIMON HAMILTON MLA
Minister for the Economy

ANNEX B

From: Patsy McGlone [<mailto:patsymcglonemla@yahoo.ie>]
Sent: 11 August 2016 17:06
To: DfE Private Office
Subject: Re: RHI payments
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I have been contacted by a constituent who is experiencing delays in receiving payments due to them under the RHI scheme. All necessary work has been completed and is fully compliant. They are now unsure of what is holding up their payments. The details are as follows:

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
RHI Numbers: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Please could you look into their case and update me as to what is delaying their payment and if anything can be done to speed up the process?

Kind regards,

Patsy

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