

**From:** [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#)  
**To:** [Cairns, Timothy](#)  
**Cc:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#)  
**Subject:** RE: RHI  
**Date:** 03 February 2016 15:01:00

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**From:** Cairns, Timothy  
**Sent:** 03 February 2016 14:40  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (DETI)  
**Subject:** RHI

Chris

Can someone urgently contact the assembly authorities to see if an emergency procedure can be put in place to bypass the whole process – a suspension of standing orders or something like that to enable this to be stopped asap

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Tim

I don't think there is a single source of authority that could meet such a request. The indicative timetable is shown below (first column). Assuming that the Executive urgent procedure is completed quickly, the next steps involve the Committee.

If the Committee could be persuaded to consider the SL1 next Tuesday, then some time would be saved. Normally, the Committee would then consider the regulations a week later, with the benefit of a report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules Even if he were able to complete his report very quickly, further shortening of the timetable would require an extra Committee meeting. Thereafter, the scheduling of the debate (including any consideration of extra /extended sitting days) would be a matter for the Business Committee.

Underlying all of that, the timetable below is predicated on 4 weeks public notice of closure. Shortening the timetable would mean shortening that notice, which must increase the risk of legal challenge on grounds of Wedensbury unreasonableness.

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Dates	Op 1 - Announcement	Op 2 – Consult Concurrently	Op 3 – Consult Consecutively
<b>Fri 29 January</b>	Consult other Ministers (DFP)	Consult other Ministers (DFP)	Consult other Ministers (DFP)
<b>Mon 1 February</b>	Receive OFMDFM Agreement	Receive OFMDFM Agreement	Receive OFMDFM Agreement
<b>Tue 2 February</b>	Make Announcement on Closure (in 4 weeks) Letter to ETI Committee SL 1 to Committee.	Letter to ETI Committee (explaining that due to time constraints draft legislation needs to be laid) SL1 to Committee Launch 2 week Public Consultation	Letter to ETI Committee Launch 2 week Public Consultation
<b>Tue 9 February</b>	ETI Committee agrees SL1 Draft Regulations Laid	ETI Committee agrees SL1 Draft Regulations Laid	
<b>Mon 15 February</b>		Consultation closes	Consultation closes
<b>Tue 16 February</b>	Committee agrees Regulations		
<b>Tue 23 February</b>	Assembly approves Regulations	Letter to Committee on outcome of Consultation	Letter to ETI Committee on outcome of Consultation SL1 to Committee
<b>Wed 24 February</b>	Regulations come into operation Statutory notice of closure issued.		
<b>Mon 29 February</b>	Scheme Closes (having given 4 weeks' notice)		
<b>Tues 1 March</b>		Committee agrees Regulations	ETI Committee agrees SL1 Draft Regulations Laid
<b>Mon 7 March</b>		Assembly approves Regulations Regulations come into operation Statutory notice of closure issued (scheme closed from immediate effect).	
<b>Tue 8 March</b>			Committee agrees Regulations
<b>Mon 14 March</b>			Regulations come into operation