

From: [Wightman, Stuart](#)
To: [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#)
Cc: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#)
Subject: FW: PRIORITY WRITTEN: AQW 53731/11-16 : To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed cl...
Date: 03 February 2016 22:12:46
Attachments: [Response re AQW 53731 11-16 - Closure of RHI.tr5](#)
[Response re AQW 53731 11-16 - Closure of RHI.DOCX](#)
Importance: High

Chris

Please revised draft response to Priority AQW on RHI closure.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks, Stuart

From: Wightman, Stuart
Sent: 02 February 2016 21:01
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: Stewart, Chris (DETI); Hughes, Seamus; Dolaghan, Paul
Subject: FW: PRIORITY WRITTEN: AQW 53731/11-16 : To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed cl...
Importance: High

John

Draft response to urgent AQW. Will need revised if public consultation not launched.

Stuart

-----Original Message-----

From: Dolaghan, Paul
Sent: 02 February 2016 16:47
To: Wightman, Stuart
Cc: Hughes, Seamus
Subject: PRIORITY WRITTEN: AQW 53731/11-16 : To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed cl...
Importance: High

Stuart, Seamus,

Please see attached Priority AQW for action please - due with ALU noon tomorrow (3 Feb)

Thanks

Paul.

-----Original Message-----

From: alu@detini.gov.uk [<mailto:alu@detini.gov.uk>]
Sent: 02 February 2016 16:44
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: Robson, Rod; Dolaghan, Paul; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Kerr, Sean; Private Office DETI; Rooney, Eugene; Stewart, Chris (DETI); DG_DETI Press Office; Assembly Liaison Unit; DETI Energy Mailbox
Subject: PRIORITY WRITTEN: AQW 53731/11-16 : To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed cl...
Importance: High

PRIORITY WRITTEN QUESTION FOR ANSWER ON 05/02/2016

Tabled by: Steven Agnew MLA
Constituency: North Down
Political Party: Green Party

Reference: AQW 53731/11-16

Question: To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive; and whether the RHI was funded by the UK government and its closure means a loss of investment in Northern Ireland.

Referred To: JOHN MILLS

Date Referred: 02/02/2016

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide draft reply and background note to alu@detini.gov.uk not later than 03/02/2016 12:00

For further information etc. contact:

Janet McCrum
Assembly Liaison Unit
29492

Copied To For Information:

Robson, Rod; Dolaghan, Paul; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Kerr, Sean; Private Office DETI; Rooney, Eugene; Stewart, Chris (DETI); Press Office, DETI; Assembly Liaison Unit; DETI Energy Mailbox

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)

Due for answer on: Friday 5 February 2016

AQW No: 53731/11-16

Put Down By: Mr S Agnew

Political Party: Green Party

Constituency: North Down

Question:

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive; and whether the RHI was funded by the UK government and its closure means a loss of investment in Northern Ireland.

Answer:

The Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) has incentivised the installation of over 3,500 renewable heating systems in homes and businesses since its introduction in 2012. Current estimates suggest that around 6% of NI's heating needs are now provided through renewable technologies. This success comes at a cost. This is why I brought cost control measures for the non domestic scheme forward in November 2015. However, in the run up to these changes, over 900 applications were received.

Funding for the NI RHI is provided by Treasury, and up to this point has been additional to the NI Block Grant. However, the increase in committed expenditure associated with the recent influx in non domestic applications means that the NI funding allocations from 2016/17 onwards will be exceeded even if both schemes are closed to new applications. This situation is exacerbated by the UK Government's November Spending Review which not only included a significant reduction in future RHI funding but also moved responsibility for supporting anything in excess of existing allocations to the NI Block.

To prevent further overspend I have made a preliminary decision that both RHI schemes must be suspended to new applications and I have launched a short consultation on this.

Jonathan Bell MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Date: _____

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)

AQW No:53731/11-16

Background

1. Uptake of the RHI over the past 12 to 18 months has been significant, particularly between July 2014 and October 2015 which has increased forecast expenditure from £11m to £30m for 2015/16.
2. Prospective scheme approval has been obtained from October 2015 through to March 2016. However, scheme approval ended in March 2015 and we are currently working with DFP to secure retrospective approval for this period.
3. Forecast expenditure has now increased with an unprecedented number of applications received, (around 900), during the 6 week period prior to the introduction of tariff changes and cost controls on 18 November 2015. The forecast expenditure for 2015/16 is now likely to be at least £33m. Even if no more new commitments are entered in to, (i.e. both schemes closed), annual expenditure of some £45m will be required from 2016/17 and onwards for 20 years.
4. The Chancellors autumn statement included what appears to be a positive outlook around RHI, namely government expenditure to increase to £1.15billion by 2020/21. However, with the Barnett principle applied, this translates to a 30% reduction and a capped AME funding profile of £18.3M in 2016-17, £22.3M in 2017-18, £25.7M in 2018-19 and £28.9M in 2019-20. Any difference between actual spend in any of these years and the capped AME amount would fall to NI Block Resource DEL.

Reply prepared by: John Mills, Head of Energy Division

**Further information available from: Stuart Wightman, Energy Efficiency
Branch, Ext: 29425**

SPECIAL ADVISER CLEARANCE:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

From: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#)
Subject: Re: Energy - Oral Questions 1, 3, 9 & 11
Date: 03 February 2016 22:28:49

Stuart,

Ta. I think there's an important point here. There's actually been massive Investment, over-investment, we might say. Yet those with an interest in the continuance of the scheme will present it as a loss. "You've mucked this up, now NI's lost all these opportunities ". Whereas the real answer is certain sectors have taken full advantage and (more than) used up all the money.

So the answer after the first sentence needs to be something like. "The scheme gives support for 20 years and we are ahead of our target and the UK so in no way could this be considered lost Investment. " needs better words than that but preferable to rest of first para.

Also the stuff about HMT later will surely be too much for Andrew? Sorry difficult to draft over BlackBerry.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Wightman, Stuart
Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2016 22:34
To: Dolaghan, Paul
Cc: Stewart, Chris (DETI); Mills, John (DETI)
Subject: RE: Energy - Oral Questions 1, 3, 9 & 11

Paul

I've made tracked changes to the draft response to AQO 9 on RHI.

We'll discuss in morning.

Thx, Stuart

From: Dolaghan, Paul
Sent: 02 February 2016 11:46
To: Assembly Liaison Unit; Robson, Rod; McCrum, Janet
Cc: Mills, John (DETI); Clydesdale, Alison; Wightman, Stuart; DETI Energy Mailbox
Subject: Energy - Oral Questions 1, 3, 9 & 11

Rod, Janet,

Please see attached Energy Division Orals which have been approved by John Mills. As requested, we have grouped questions 1, 3 & 11 together.

Kindly note both issues being addressed (NIRO/RHI) remain very fluent and the draft responses/supplementaries may well require updating/amendment in advance of next Tuesday's Orals session.

Thanks

Paul.

From: McCrum, Janet
Sent: 29 January 2016 10:41

To: Mills, John (DETI)

Cc: Kerr, Sean; Cairns, Timothy; McCrea, Ian; Private Office DETI; DG_DETI Press Office; Assembly Liaison Unit; Dolaghan, Paul; DETI Energy Mailbox; Robson, Rod

Subject: Energy - Oral Questions 1, 3, 9 & 11

Energy

Please see attached Oral Question allocated to you, including guidance provided by Senior Management below:

External Part Inputs

Where an external part-input is required, please advise alu@detini.gov.uk asap.

Please note: If Divisions/NDPB's are awaiting responses to part inputs, responses should still be issued to ALU by the deadline shown. A page should be inserted to explain the part input is outstanding.

Deadline and Templates

Energy - Please send your final response, using the template below, to alu@detini.gov.uk by **2.00pm Tuesday 2 February 2016**.

Timings Chart

Many thanks

Janet

From: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#)
Cc: [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#)
Subject: Re: PRIORITY WRITTEN: AQW 53731/11-16 : To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the rationale for the proposed cl...
Date: 03 February 2016 22:36:29

Also the stuff about preliminary decisions is now otiose given the kamikaze approach to legal issues.

Will need to be clear whether it's 18 or 30m going forward. Is it clear?

Appreciate pressure u under, sorry not there, but got to prioritise Regs. This question gets answered late, that,'s unfortunate. But Regs on critical path now.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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To: Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Mills, John (DETI); Dolaghan, Paul; Hughes, Seamus
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Janet McCrum

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