

**From:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#)  
**To:** [Nigel Smyth](#)  
**Cc:** [Hill, Janice](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Closure of RHI scheme  
**Date:** 10 February 2016 14:17:57  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Many thanks for the heads up Nigel. Understand the concerns. Further details to follow.

Andrew

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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**From:** Nigel Smyth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2016 14:01  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DETI)  
**Subject:** Closure of RHI scheme

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Andrew

We have just sent the attached letter into the Minister

Clearly a lot of concern, especially from those organisations who have made commitments on the back of the scheme – very important to find some resolution to these companies

Regards

**Nigel Smyth**

**Director, CBI Northern Ireland**

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**From:** [private.office@detini.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk)  
**To:** [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)  
**Cc:** [McLaughlin, Christine \(DETI\)](#); [Hegarty, Damien](#); [Stevenson, Valerie \(DETI Private Office\)](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [DETI Energy Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** COR-0057-2016 : Closure of Northern Ireland's RHI Schemes  
**Date:** 10 February 2016 15:09:01  
**Attachments:** [PE Smyth Closure of RHI Schemes Feb 16.pdf](#)

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Raised By: Mr Nigel PE Smyth  
Reference: COR-0057-2016

Subject: COR-0057-2016 : Closure of Northern Ireland's RHI Schemes

Referred To: JOHN MILLS  
Date referred: 10/02/2016

## ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice and a draft reply for signature by the Minister

To be with [private.office@detini.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk) not later than 17/02/2016

For further information etc. contact:  
Christine McLaughlin  
Private Office  
29222

Copied To For Information:  
McLaughlin, Christine (DETI); Hegarty, Damien; PO CC Energy Division

10 February 2016

Jonathan Bell MLA  
 Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
 Netherleigh  
 Massey Avenue  
 Belfast  
 BT4 2JP

Dear Minister

## Proposed Closure of Northern Ireland's RHI Schemes

The announcement on Monday that both domestic and non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive schemes are to close has come as a significant shock to many companies who have already made commitments and contractual arrangements to take advantage of the schemes. Many of these businesses, who relied on the good faith of the department, have taken financial loans on the basis that the scheme would continue until at least March. However, the discussion at the Assembly Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee yesterday suggests that closure is now imminent and could be potentially as early as next week.

This is going to leave many organisations, especially those in the agri-food sector, in an extremely difficult financial position. It also sets a dangerous precedent looking forward around the concept of Trust in government policy. If it is assumed that government support schemes can be withdrawn with little or no notice companies are less likely to engage in such schemes and those that do will require much larger incentives to offset the heightened perceived risk associated with such Government support schemes. In short business needs certainty around government policy in order to encourage investment. This action creates a great deal of uncertainty around what business can expect from Government policy in the future.

We recognise the difficult budgetary positions facing the NI Executive and the fact that its hand was to some extent forced by DECC & Treasury. However, we would have expected an earlier decision on the issue from DETI with a phased closure designed to ensure those businesses who have invested in good faith are not negatively impacted.

Our members have been quite taken aback at the timing and speed of this announcement. As a minimum we would ask the Department to review the impact of this decision urgently on companies planning investment and to seek to find some resolution/support/ compensation to those organisations who have already made contractual commitments, including early stage deposits on boilers.

Yours sincerely



**Nigel PE Smyth**  
 Director, CBI Northern Ireland

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