

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Cairns, Timothy](#)
Cc: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#); [Hill, Janice](#)
Subject: RE: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme
Date: 11 February 2016 11:05:33
Attachments: [RHI Feb 11 20161.docx](#)
[Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme.DOCX](#)
Importance: High

Tim

Updated letter with press release attached.

From: Mills, John (DETI)
Sent: 11 February 2016 10:33
To: Cairns, Timothy
Cc: McCoy, Laura; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda; Hill, Janice
Subject: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme
Tim,
Draft letter form Minister to Finance Minister

11 February, 2016

Bell announces extension to RHI closure date

Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Jonathan Bell has announced that the domestic and non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes will remain open until February 29.

If legislation is approved by the Assembly on Monday, the earliest possible date for closure would have been midnight on Tuesday, February 16.

Jonathan Bell said: **“I have listened carefully to the concerns expressed in relation to both the non domestic and domestic RHI schemes and I fully appreciate that closure presents considerable difficulties for those who have invested in new technology and are in the midst of preparing for application.**

“Having taken those concerns on board, rather than close the schemes to new applications on the earliest possible date, I am proposing that, pending Assembly approval, both schemes remain open for a further two weeks until February 29.”

The Minister added: **“My Department will be carrying out a comprehensive review and audit, to ensure that the operation of the schemes is in compliance with the scheme requirements and the underpinning legislation.”**

DRAFT LETTER FROM MINISTER TO MERVYN STOREY MLA

Mervyn Storey MLA
Minister of Finance
DFP Private Office
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

11 February 2016

Dear Mervyn

CLOSURE OF RENEWABLE HEAT SCHEME

I am writing to confirm that the Assembly Debate on the RHI closure legislation has been scheduled for Monday 15 February which is the earliest possible opportunity. Subject to Assembly approval of the legislation I will subsequently issue a notice which will actually close the RHI to new applications (the legislation does not do this directly).

In line with the authorisation given by the First and Deputy Ministers and with their agreement I propose that the scheme will close on 29 February. This will effect closure as soon as practicable taking into account the need to address industry concerns about the practicalities around the ending of the scheme.

I attach a press notice which will announce this to give certainty to the industry.

Yours

Jonathan Bell MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment