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Subject: RHI spend
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As a relief from pressured handling – had few moments to check on DECC’s budgetary position re: RHI as there were a number of questions along lines of whether they face our pressures. The DECC Report and Accounts for 14/15 show they underspent by £65m i.e. their underspend in 14/15 is greater than our total estimated spend next year. What does this tell us? Maybe not much apart from emphasising issues of scale. Thus, even a spike like we had (which digression wouldn’t have worked fast enough to mitigate) could have been absorbed in a UK-wide budget. It might suggest that the UK supply market can vastly affect our small scheme but not have quite so volatile an impact at UK level. Think it reinforces the risks of NI running its own separate schemes (or de-socialising their costs as in the case of NIRO – which is largely a UK scheme). Of course, this leaves aside the question of why we got the spike at all and questions of controls being in place in GB that weren’t in NI.