

From: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Hill, Janice](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#)
Subject: RE: RHI scheme closure query
Date: 18 February 2016 13:07:09
Attachments: [Permanent Secretary response to Steven Agnew RHI closure query.docx](#)

Andrew

As requested (assuming you happy to reply directly rather than go through Minister?)

Thanks Seamus

From: McCormick, Andrew (DETI)
Sent: 17 February 2016 13:42
To: Wightman, Stuart
Cc: Mills, John (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); Hill, Janice
Subject: Fw: RHI scheme closure query
Importance: High

Quick advice please. Many thanks.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Agnew, Steven <steven.agnew@mha.niassembly.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2016 13:20
To: McCormick, Andrew (DETI)
Subject: RHI scheme closure query

Dear Andrew,

I received the following two emails below from constituents concern about what the RHI Scheme closure would mean for them.

Would you be able clarify for me whether or not customers who have already committed to purchase, but installation isn't complete, are still eligible for the RHI grant within the deadline?

I appreciate you looking into this matter and await your response

Yours sincerely,

Steven Agnew

Steven Agnew MLA

Room 258

Parliament Buildings, Stormont BT4 3XX

028 90 521790

Personal information redacted by
the RHI Inquiry

www.stevenagnew.net

Dear Steven

We are contacting you about an urgent matter that we only found out about recently from Daly Renewable Energy Systems Ltd. It is our understanding that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) grant programme is to be hastily withdrawn/closed by DETINI on 29 February 2016 and that this matter is to be debated in the NI Assembly tomorrow.

We are only several weeks away from completing the installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) in a new build. Unfortunately it takes a considerable amount of time to install and commission an ASHP before being able to apply for the RHI grant. Our application by Slemish Design to Building Control dated **3 November 2014** included an ASHP, on the basis that it would be eligible for a RHI grant ... (as it was more economical and environmentally friendly than installing an oil-fired heating system). Without the RHI grant it would not have made economic sense to install an ASHP.

On that basis we entered into a contract with Daly Renewables Ltd for an ASHP under floor heating system on 24th November 2015. NIE has installed an electrical supply designed for an ASHP and the first fix electrical/plumbing and other infrastructure for the ASHP have also been installed. It is impossible to have the ASHP commissioned and an application submitted before 29 February 2016.

It is grossly unfair to people like us that have a contract in place for a renewable source of

heating only to find out after the work is too far advanced and costly to change that the RHI programme is closing without adequate advance warning.

An application for the RHI grant cannot be submitted until after the system has been commissioned. Those who can demonstrate that they had a contract and started to install a renewable source of heating before the announcement that the scheme was due to close should surely still be eligible for the RHI grant.

If the programme had been set up for DETINI to agree a RHI grant in principle subject to satisfying a number of conditions before people started, then this debacle would not have happened.

We therefore request your strong support to have the closing date extended to allow projects already commenced before the closure announcement to still be eligible for the RHI grant.

Many thanks for your support.

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Dear Steven,

Further to the announcement yesterday, I am writing to seek your help in connection with the RHI Scheme which is to be voted on in the assembly on Monday 16th February 2016. Our situation is that we have borrowed money and entered into a £29,700 contract to install renewable energy in our new home. We are a young professional couple in our twenties and are building our first home. As we wanted try and do our bit for the environment and build an energy efficient home, we made the decision on the understanding that we would receive RHI amounting to £6950 through the scheme. We are therefore really concerned and distressed to find that the scheme is being cut at such short notice without any consultation, or mechanism in place for those already in contracts to fulfill their obligations. I understand budgetary pressures are largely responsible for this decision, however our assembly should also think about budgetary implications for local tax-payers already in contracts and depending on the scheme.

I am therefore writing to ask for your assistance to ensure that there is a more reasonable plan or phased approach to this major policy change. We are within 6-8 weeks of being able to commission and therefore fulfil the criteria for the scheme.

Thanking you in advance of your response.

Yours sincerely

Personal information redacted by
the RHI Inquiry



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xx February 2016

Steven Agnew, MLA
Room 258
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3XX

Dear

NORTHERN IRELAND RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEMES (RHI)

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2016 seeking clarification around the closure of the RHI schemes.

As debated in the Assembly, to help manage budgetary pressures, the Minister has decided to close the RHI to new applications from 29 February 2016. All installations must be completed and commissioned and applications submitted before midnight on 29 February 2016 to be eligible for RHI payments.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW McCORMICK
Permanent Secretary

cc Stuart Wightman
Private Office