

From: private.office@detini.gov.uk
To: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
Cc: [McLaughlin, Christine \(DfE\)](#); [Hegarty, Damien](#); [Stevenson, Valerie \(DfE Private Office\)](#); [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [DfE Energy Mailbox](#)
Subject: COR-0089-2016 : Renewable Heating Incentive Scheme
Date: 29 February 2016 10:51:11
Attachments: [Correspondence Paul Givan MLA.pdf](#)

Raised By: Paul Givan MLA
Reference: COR-0089-2016

Subject: COR-0089-2016 : Renewable Heating Incentive Scheme

Referred To: JOHN MILLS
Date referred: 29/02/2016

ACTION REQUIRED

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

To be with private.office@detini.gov.uk not later than 07/03/2016

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

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

REPLY TO:
DUP CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
THE OLD TOWN HALL
29 CASTLE STREET
LISBURN
CO ANTRIM BT27 4DH

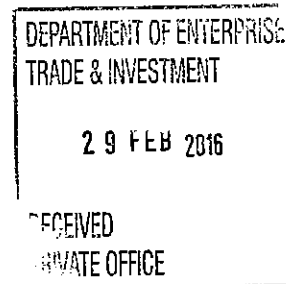


TEL: 028 92661100
FAX: 028 92671845
EMAIL: paul@laganvalley.net

Our Ref: PG/sw/ [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

22 February 2016

Mr Jonathan Bell MLA
Minister
Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
BELFAST
BT4 2JP



Dear Minister

RE: [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] -
RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

I am writing on behalf of my constituent [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] regarding his concerns about the Notice of Suspension for the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

[Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] has advised me that he started to build a new house in April last year and unfortunately, it will not be completed by the deadline set by the Department of 29th February 2016. To date, he advises that he has spent approximately £6,000, out of a total of approximately £13,500 towards a heating system including the installation of underground loops for a ground source heat pump in his new build. [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] has also spent a large sum on insulation, triple glazed windows, air tightness and mechanical ventilation. He made the decision to install a renewable heating system based on the expectation of a grant of £3,500 towards the cost of the heat pump and ongoing payments for several years towards the cost of running the system.

As a result of the decision to suspend the scheme, [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] is very concerned that he and his family will suffer a huge financial penalty as they have already paid up front costs without receiving the grants available. [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] is now faced with a decision whether to continue with a system that is no longer economically comparable with carbon fuel heating systems.

I would therefore be most grateful for any advice or assistance you can provide to my constituent who has found himself in this very unfortunate situation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

PAUL GIVAN MLA
Lagan Valley

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [DfE Private Office](#)
Cc: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#); [McCrea, Ian](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [DfE Energy Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: COR-0076-2016 : Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) issues
Date: 29 February 2016 16:41:30
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[Draft Response COR 0076 -2016 J Donaldson.tr5](#)
[Draft Response COR 0076 -2016 J Donaldson.DOCX](#)

Restricted - Policy

Private Office

Please see attached advice and draft reply from John Mills.

Regards,

Laura McCoy

Personal Secretary

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

Netherleigh

Massey Avenue

Belfast, BT4 2JP

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[NI Year of Food & Drink 2016](#)

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?

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

From: private.office@detini.gov.uk [<mailto:private.office@detini.gov.uk>]

Sent: 24 February 2016 10:06

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-0076-2016 : Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) issues

Raised By: Jeffrey Donaldson MP

Reference: COR-0076-2016

Subject: COR-0076-2016 : Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) issues

Referred To: JOHN MILLS

Date referred: 24/02/2016

ACTION REQUIRED

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

To be with private.office@detini.gov.uk not later than 02/03/2016

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

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

Energy



From: John Mills

Date: 29 February 2016

Copy Distribution List Below

To: 1. Timothy Cairns
2. Jonathan Bell MLA

COR 0076 2016 NI RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE – LARCHFIELD ESTATE LISBURN

Issue: Correspondence from Mr Jeffrey Donaldson, MP on RHI closure.

Timing: Due for reply 2 March 2016.

Need for referral to the Executive: N/A

Presentational Issues: High interest from stakeholders and the media in relation to closure of the RHI schemes.

Freedom of Information: Not disclosable.

Financial Implications: Closure required to prevent further pressure on budgets.

Statutory Equality Obligations: N/A.

PFG/PSA implications: NI Renewable Heat Incentive supports the PFG interim target of 4% renewable heat by 2015 and the SEF 10% target by 2020.

Legislation Implications: Closure to take effect from 29 February.

Recommendation: That you respond to Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, using the draft letter provided at **Annex A**.

Background

1. Mr Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, has written to you on behalf of a constituent, Gavin Mackie, Larchfield Estate, Lisburn who has placed an order for a new biomass boiler to heat his events facility at Larchfield. He indicates that the total project will cost in excess of £60,000 but there is a 2 month delivery on the boiler and his constituent is concerned about losing out on the RHI payment. He goes on to seek clarification on whether in such circumstances where a boiler has been ordered before the RHI closure announcement, his constituent could still benefit from an incentive payment, or is there any way his constituent can apply to the RHI scheme prior to the installation of the boiler. (**Annex B**).
2. Preliminary accreditation prior to the installation of boilers is available but only applicable to very large boiler over 199kW. We have confirmation from Mr Mackie that his boiler is 199kW and would not therefore be eligible for preliminary accreditation.

Recommendation

3. That you respond to Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, using the draft letter provided at **Annex A**.



JOHN MILLS
ENERGY DIVISION

Distribution List

cc: Andrew McCormick
Chris Stewart
Stuart Wightman
Seamus Hughes
Ian McCrea MLA APS
Sean Kerr
Neth Energy

ANNEX A

Mr Jeffrey Donaldson, MP
Lagan Valley

By email

jeffreydonaldsonmp@laganvalley.net

xx February 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2016 in relation to the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI) and the impact on your constituent Gavin Mackie, Larchfield Estate, Lisburn.

Increased demand for both RHI schemes, together with reductions in available funding means the budget for new applications has been exhausted. To meet RHI commitments for existing installations, significant levels of additional funding will have to be found from within the NI Executive's budget for the next five years.

In the circumstances I had no choice but to close both RHI schemes. Following approval of the legislation by the Assembly on the 15 February 2016, a Notice was published to close both RHI schemes from 29 February 2016. Any renewable heating systems installed, commissioned and applied for on or before this date will be eligible for RHI payments. You have asked if there is any provision to apply to the RHI before the installation of the boiler. There is a preliminary accreditation provision but this is only applicable for very large boilers in excess of 199kW capacity. We have confirmation from your constituent Mr Mackie that his boiler is 199kW and therefore unfortunately he is ineligible for preliminary accreditation.

I must emphasise that my decision on RHI closure is not something that I have taken lightly. I recognise the impact that this will have on people such as your constituent who may not be able to complete their installations on time. However, the immediate priority is to prevent further financial pressures in the short term. Once this is achieved I will consider wider proposals on the scheme's long term future.

Jonathan Bell

Minister of Enterprise Trade and Investment

ANNEX B

From: Jeffrey Donaldson MP [<mailto:jeffreydonaldsonmp@laganvalley.net>]
Sent: 23 February 2016 11:34
To: Private Office DETI
Subject: MR GAVIN MACKIE, LARCHFIELD ESTATE, LISBURN
Importance: High

Dear Jonathan

I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the recent announcement that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme would close with effect from the 29th February this year.

My constituent Gavin Mackie who is the owner of the Larchfield Estate near Lisburn has recently placed an order for a new biomass boiler and thermal store to heat his events facility at Larchfield. The investment for the boiler and store is in the region of £35,000 and the whole project will cost in excess of £60,000. There is a 2 month delivery on the biomass boiler and therefore my constituent is concerned that he may lose out on the RHI payment.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could clarify whether in such circumstances where a boiler has been ordered before the announcement on RHI closure, the applicant can still benefit from an incentive payment. Can Mr Mackie apply for the RHI scheme prior to the installation of the boiler?

I am most grateful for your assistance in responding to the concerns raised on behalf of my constituent and look forward to hearing from you thereto.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely



RT HON JEFFREY DONALDSON MP
Lagan Valley

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