

**From:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)  
**To:** [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [McCoy, Laura](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Priority of Domestic over Non Domestic  
**Date:** 13 December 2016 15:47:24

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SpAd has adopted an alternative line.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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**From:** Stewart, Chris (DFE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 December 2016 15:42  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE); 'johnrobinson@dup.org.uk'  
**Cc:** DfE SpAd; McCoy, Laura; McIlwrath, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Priority of Domestic over Non Domestic

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Andrew

This is accurate.

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**From:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE)  
**Sent:** 13 December 2016 14:08  
**To:** 'johnrobinson@dup.org.uk'  
**Cc:** DfE SpAd; Stewart, Chris (DFE); McCoy, Laura  
**Subject:** Priority of Domestic over Non Domestic

Possible Line – will need to check with colleagues very quickly

- Minister Foster's prioritisation of the Domestic RHI scheme was a normal and reasonable exercise of the Minister's role in setting priorities, based on the information and advice available to her at that time. She had not been alerted to any risk through from the non-domestic scheme, because the warnings from the whistleblower had not been highlighted to her.
- The background is that in 2013, DETI consulted on the proposals for a Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, and on some aspects of the Non-Domestic scheme, including an approach to budget management. The then Minister asked that the work on the introduction of the domestic scheme should receive priority, but in the relevant period (from the close of consultation in October 2013 through to early 2015), officials did not raise any concern that this would lead to risks in relation to the absence of cost controls in the Non-Domestic scheme. So while the 2013 consultation paper referred to an intention to introduce cost controls, this was not put forward to the Minister as a recommendation for action until July 2015, in a submission to Minister Bell.