

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)**

**Due for answer on:** Tuesday 30 September 2014

**AQ No:** 36264/11-15 \*\*\*PRIORITY\*\*\*

**Put Down By:** Mr W Irwin  
**Political Party:** DUP  
**Constituency:** Newry and Armagh

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**Question:**

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department plans to reduce the level of Renewable Heat Incentives for new commercial biomass boilers.

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**Answer:**

The non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI) has been in place since November 2012 and supports biogas, biomass, ground heat pumps and solar. Tariffs haven't been reduced and are reviewed annually in line with inflation.

A consultation on phase II of RHI was undertaken last year, (July – October) with a focus on support for a range of new technologies. There are no proposals in the consultation to reduce incentives. Phase II developments will be taken forward in 2015.

**Arlene Foster MLA**  
**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

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**Background**

1. The non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI) was introduced on 1 November 2012 and is being delivered by Ofgem on behalf of DETI. It provides tariff based incentives for a range of renewable heat solutions for a 20 year period.

2.Support tariffs are reviewed annually in line with inflation and there are no proposals to reduce incentives.

3.Phase II of RHI was consulted on during July – Oct 2013 with a focus on expanding on the range of technologies to receive support. The outcome from the consultation will be taken forward during 2015.

4.RHI tariffs are lower in Northern Ireland compared to GB but this reflects the different market conditions i.e. oil displacement in Northern Ireland as opposed to gas in GB.

**Reply prepared by: John Mills, Energy Division x 29215**

**Further information available from: Stuart Wightman, Energy Division x 29425**

**SPECIAL ADVISER CLEARANCE:**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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