

Submission**From:** Stuart Wightman**Tel No:** Ext 29425**Date:** 7 December 2015**cc:** Copy distribution list below**To:**
1. Timothy Cairns
2. Jonathan Bell MLA
3. DARD**COR 1297- 2015 PART INPUT TO QUERY ON RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE**

Issue: Part input to DARD on query about the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Timing: *Routine*

Executive Committee Referral: *N/A*

PFG Implications: *None*

Presentational Issues: *None*

FOI Implications: *Fully disclosable*

Financial Implications: *None*

Legislation Implications: *N/A*

Statutory Equality Obligations: *N/A*

Recommendation: *To note the background to the query and to issue the part input response to DARD provided at **Annex A***

BACKGROUND

1. Barry McElduff, MLA has written to the DARD Minister with a number of queries one of them concerning the Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI), and the recently introduced changes (**Annex B**). Part input has been requested from DARD in relation to this issue.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To issue the part input response to DARD provided at **Annex A**

S. Wightman

Stuart Wightman
Head of Energy Efficiency Branch

Distribution List:

Sean Kerr, PS/Minister
Chris Stewart
John Mills
Ian McCrea MLA, Assembly Private Secretary
Press Office

DRAFT REPLY**PART INPUT – RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME**

DETI has responsibility for the Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI). It was introduced in November 2012 initially to the non domestic sector and extended to the domestic sector in December 2014. The scheme provides incentives to encourage consumers to install sustainable heating systems.

A number of changes were introduced to the non domestic scheme on 18 November 2015. In summary the main changes were:-

- The introduction of new tariffs for biomass CHP to coincide with the removal of the 0.5 ROC uplift from October 2015.
- A change in the medium biomass banding upwards to 199kW from 99KW.
- The introduction of a two tiered tariff for small and medium biomass, tier 1 first 1314 annual operation hours paid at standard rates and hours above this at tier 2 rate of 1.5pence per kWh.
- An overall annual cap of 400,000kWh for heat payments on all new biomass installations.

Full details on the scheme and the recent changes can be accessed at the website link below.

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/rhi>