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Our ref: PO2016/02980/PH

29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for your letter of 9 March, about the Renewable Heat Incentive.

The Government is pleased that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes in Northern Ireland have successfully supported the installation of over 3,500 renewable heating installations.

The schemes have made an important contribution to the growth of the low-carbon heating industry and to meeting the UK's renewable energy and decarbonisation targets. Following the closure of the scheme on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016, we encourage the Northern Ireland Executive and relevant departments to explore ways in which they can continue to support consumers in transitioning to low-carbon heating alternatives and support the growth of the low-carbon heating supply chain.

However, we have no plans to consider extending the GB-wide RHI schemes to applicants in Northern Ireland at this time. The budget for the GB schemes, agreed through the comprehensive spending review, was set on the basis of their existing geographic coverage. Expanding the GB schemes to include Northern Ireland would therefore impact on the support for consumers and the growth of the supply chain in the rest of the UK.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

AMBER RUDD

