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Our Ref: COR 958/2010
Your Ref: SUB 511/2010

FROM: SAMMY WILSON MP MLA

DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 2010

TO: ARLENE FOSTER MLA

Thank you for your memo of 8 November regarding the subject of funding for renewable energy in Northern Ireland as part of the 2010 Spending Review settlement.

We discussed this subject at our 8 November meeting and agreed a way forward. I am writing to confirm that my officials have now clarified the position with their HMT colleagues.

In terms of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, my officials have notified their HM Treasury counterparts that the NI Executive, through DETI, intends to implement the scheme locally. Accordingly, your officials should feed the appropriate figurework into the next Annual Managed Expenditure (AME) exercise.

I note the Prime Minister's announcement of £60m support for offshore wind infrastructure in England. As the Minister responsible, it will be for you, in the first instance, to consider if such a proposal should be brought to the Executive for consideration, and for the Executive to decide, through the Budget 2010 process, if a similar initiative should be implemented in Northern Ireland.

Finally, I understand that the Renewable Energy Fund will operate on a UK-wide basis and that it will be administered by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). That being the case, your officials should contact DECC directly to seek more details on the scheme including how local companies may apply.

I hope this is helpful and I look forward to future developments in the renewable energy field.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sammy Wilson".

SAMMY WILSON MP MLA
Minister of Finance & Personnel