

From: Christine.McLaughlin@detini.gov.uk
To: [Hepper, Fiona](#)
Cc: [Dolaghan, Paul](#); [Neth, Energy](#); [Sterling, David](#); [Cooper, Trevor](#); [Thomson, David](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Stevenson, Valerie](#); [Baxter, Clare](#); [DG, DETI Press Office](#); [Hegarty, Damien](#); [McLaughlin, Christine](#)
Subject: CLOSING Correspondence -- Ref. Number: COR/241/2012 : Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme
Date: 08 May 2012 15:10:10
Attachments: [COR 241 Min signed.pdf](#)
[COR 241 Min content.pdf](#)

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

CLOSING - CORRESPONDENCE

Reference: COR/241/2012

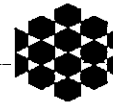
Raised By: Pat Doherty

Subject: Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Answer: The Minister is content. Response issued today.

Copied To For Information:

cc Energy; Hegarty Damien (Mr); McLaughlin Christine (Mrs)



From the Office of the Minister

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk

Our Ref: DETI COR 241/2012

Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA
West Tyrone Constituency Office
4 James Street
OMAGH
BT78 1DH

08 May 2012

Dear Mr Doherty

RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 April 2012 seeking information on the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

My Department has carried out a significant amount of work on the development, design and implementation of the RHI. A public consultation on the scheme was launched on 20 July 2011 and was open for comment until 3 October 2011. A high number of responses were received and the Department has carried out further analysis on a range of issues in order to determine the final policy option. This further analysis has concluded and has informed the levels of assistance that will be available under the scheme.

The RHI scheme was intended to be launched in April 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter. However, before I can make an announcement detailing the scheme, all the necessary approvals including State Aid must be in place. My Departmental officials are making very good progress and the internal approval process has been completed. I would be hopeful that the State Aid approval would be forthcoming shortly, nonetheless, you will appreciate that the RHI scheme cannot be launched until State Aid approval is received which is beyond my influence.

I hope to make an announcement on the final structure and design of a Northern Ireland scheme once all approvals have been obtained. Unfortunately, at this time, I cannot advise on a specific date on which the announcement will be made or the scheme will launch.

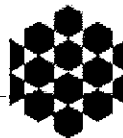
I hope that you find this response helpful

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Minister: For your consideration

and if correct signature please.



Elmhurst
From: Fiona Hepper *02.05.12* Copy Distribution List Below
Energy Division

Date: 1 May 2012

To: 1. Andrew Crawford *DR3/5*
2. Arlene Foster MLA *A7/5 Content + edyn*

COR/241/2012: RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME

Issue: Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA has written to you asking when the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be launched.

Timing: Routine

Need for referral to the Executive: Not applicable

Presentational issues: None

FOI implications: None

Financial Implications: N/A

Legislation Implications: N/A

PSA/PFG Implications: A target for renewable heat is in the Programme for Government.

Statutory Equality Obligations: None

Recommendation: That you approve the draft letter of response to Mr Doherty attached at Annex B.

Background

Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA, has written to you asking when the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be launched. He notes that the renewable industry had expected the scheme to launch in April 2012 and that this deadline has now past. The letter is attached at **Annex A** for your information.

Current Position

2. Significant progress has been made on the development, design and implementation of the NI RHI. This has included finalising the design of the scheme, gaining formal approvals, drafting legislation and developing administration arrangements.
3. Currently, the only outstanding approval is the State Aid approval from the EU Commission. The most recent correspondence with the EU Commission was on 27 April when the case handler raised a couple of relatively straightforward questions. These have been answered and we are now awaiting final clearance. It is our understanding that the case handler is largely content with the papers and the proposals. State Aid clearance must be obtained before the RHI can commence.
4. DFP clearance was given to the entire Renewable Heat project on 27 April 2012. This clearance applies to the RHI and the associated administrative arrangements with Ofgem and also the Renewable Heat Premium Payments (RHPP).
5. As the RHPP scheme does not require either state aid clearance or legislation, Energy Division can begin implementation shortly. It is hoped that all necessary arrangements will be in place to enable you to launch the RHPP week commencing 21 May 2012.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that you approve the attached draft letter to Mr Doherty attached at **Annex B**.

Fiona Hepper

FIONA HEPPER
Energy Division
(Ext 29215)

cc: David Sterling
 David Thomson
 Joanne McCutcheon
 Clare Baxter
 Peter Hutchinson
 Dan Sinton
 Glynis Aiken
 Susan Stewart
 Alastair Ross MLA, APS
 Neth Energy
 Press Office