

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)

Due for answer on: 20th December 2010

AQW No: 2736/11

Put Down By: P Callaghan
Political Party: SDLP
Constituency: Foyle

Question:

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the UK Government's, announcement on 20 October 2010, that it will proceed with a Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (i) whether a comparable scheme will be introduced in Northern Ireland; and (ii) to outline the likely timescale for the introduction of such a scheme.

Answer:

In a statement I made on 20th September 2010, I said that my Department plans to develop a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for Northern Ireland, comparable to the scheme to be introduced in Great Britain from June 2011, subject to an economic appraisal being completed. A RHI that is specifically tailored for the Northern Ireland heat market has the potential to provide consumers, businesses and investors with the long term confidence to invest in renewable heat technologies.

On completion of the economic appraisal, a public consultation and the development of appropriate legislation will be required. While this may mean that a Northern Ireland RHI is not operational by June 2011, I made it clear in my September statement that all eligible installations from 1 September 2010 will be able to avail of the RHI once it is in place.



Arlene Foster MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Date: 12/12/10