

From: [Timothy Cairns](#)
To: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)
Cc: [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Fullerton, Karen](#); [Cairns, Timothy](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Hill, Janice](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#)
Subject: Re: RHI release
Date: 11 February 2016 09:32:53

The note from HOCS is my understanding as well and subsequently confirmed in a private meeting between minister and Conor Murphy yesterday.

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Feb 2016, at 09:31, McCormick, Andrew (DETI)
<Andrew.McCormick@detini.gov.uk> wrote:

HOCS has shared the record of his meeting with FM and dFM on Tuesday afternoon where the view was taken that the scheme should be left open until a date to be determined to allow for the “completion of applications already in progress (to be further defined)”. Given the way the scheme works, that form of words may not reflect the Ministers’ intention, but I assume that the date now adopted (29 February) was brokered through the usual channels, and that should embrace DFP. Happy to discuss further but my understanding is that legitimate authority and approval exists for the announcement. Chris’ suggestion might be useful to confirm what has happened. Many thanks.

From: Rooney, Eugene
Sent: 11 February 2016 09:14
To: McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean
Cc: Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Subject: RE: RHI release
I’ve just spoken to Mike.

He has raised whether this announcement is consistent with what the Executive has agreed – he feels it may not be. Mike is also concerned that there will be an additional budget implication above the Executive’s agreed position on immediate closure of the scheme, and whether the Executive has agreed budget cover for the additional amount –and do we have an estimate ?

From: McCormick, Andrew (DETI)
Sent: 11 February 2016 08:31
To: Rooney, Eugene; Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean
Cc: Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Subject: Re: RHI release
Can you give Mike Brennan a call to make sure please.

Many thanks.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Rooney, Eugene
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2016 08:05
To: Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean
Cc: Timothy Cairns; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Subject: RE: RHI release

Have we alerted others in the system who might be expecting immediate closure for budgetary reasons of the extension?

From: Fullerton, Karen

Sent: 10 February 2016 20:39

To: Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean

Cc: Timothy Cairns; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); DG_DETI Press Office; Rooney, Eugene

Subject: RHI release

Folks,

Attached release taking on board comments. If all content, will issue at 10.30.

Thanks

Karen

From: [Timothy Cairns](#)
To: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Fullerton, Karen](#); [Cairns, Timothy](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#)
Subject: Re: RHI release
Date: 11 February 2016 09:36:41

Further to Chris' suggestion I think a letter to DFP referencing decision of FM and dFM to agree to proposal of 29th closure (given legislation has no closure date) and attaching statement before release for info purposes and saying we will be releasing at 12 today

Ties all lose ends I think

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Feb 2016, at 09:33, McCormick, Andrew (DETI) <Andrew.McCormick@detini.gov.uk> wrote:

The Urgent Procedure paper proposes “immediate” closure, but the most important point remains the collective agreement as to how that is now interpreted – ie 29 February.

From: Timothy Cairns [<mailto:timothycairns@dup.org.uk>]

Sent: 11 February 2016 09:32

To: Stewart, Chris (DETI)

Cc: Rooney, Eugene; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda

Subject: Re: RHI release

I agree with Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Feb 2016, at 09:29, Stewart, Chris (DETI) <Chris.Stewart@detini.gov.uk> wrote:

Eugene

The Minister’s request did not specify a date; nor did the Executive decision. In fact the Minister’s recommendation was not qualified by ‘as soon a possible’ or any similar formulation (although that was clearly envisaged). I suggest that Mike’s concern would be best addressed by a letter to Ministerial colleagues, advising them of how the Minister proposes to take forward the Executive’s decision.

C

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Cc: Timothy Cairns; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); DG_DETI Press Office; Rooney, Eugene
Subject: RHI release
Folks,
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Thanks
Karen

From: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)
To: [Harding, Leander](#)
Cc: [Fullerton, Karen](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DFE\)](#); [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Cairns, Timothy](#); [Kerr, Sean](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#); [Hill, Janice](#)
Subject: FW: RHI release
Date: 11 February 2016 11:31:03
Attachments: [RHI Feb 11 2016.docx](#)

This morning's exchanges do not affect the wording of the statement ("proposing" is right in this context as the regs are still subject to Assembly approval) – the tracked changes attached are as per Tim's email last night, and hopefully will accord with the version he will be sending in a moment, but if not, the latter will override this.

Many thanks.

From: Harding, Leander
Sent: 11 February 2016 11:22
To: Fullerton, Karen; Rooney, Eugene; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda
Subject: RE: RHI release

Dear All,

We have not issued the PR. I have attached last copy I have but understand amendments may have to be made.

Grateful if you can advise in regards issue/changes when confirmed.

Many thanks

Leander

From: Fullerton, Karen
Sent: 11 February 2016 10:17
To: Rooney, Eugene; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda; Harding, Leander
Subject: Re: RHI release

Folks,

I am at Invest all morning so can you keep Leander in the loop on this, please? Release has been pulled back in meantime

Thanks

Karen

From: Rooney, Eugene
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:50 AM
To: McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda
Subject: Re: RHI release

The press release indicates earliest Tuesday 16th so there is a handling issue on what is meant by immediate.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the EE network.

From: McCormick, Andrew (DETI)
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2016 09:33
To: Timothy Cairns; Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Rooney, Eugene; Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda
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Sent: 11 February 2016 09:32
To: Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Cc: Rooney, Eugene; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Fullerton, Karen; Cairns, Timothy; Kerr, Sean; Mills, John (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda
Subject: Re: RHI release
I agree with Chris

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On 11 Feb 2016, at 09:29, Stewart, Chris (DETI) <Chris.Stewart@deti.gov.uk> wrote:

Eugene

The Minister's request did not specify a date; nor did the Executive decision. In fact the Minister's recommendation was not qualified by 'as soon as possible' or any similar formulation (although that was clearly envisaged). I suggest that Mike's concern would be best addressed by a letter to Ministerial colleagues, advising them of how the Minister proposes to take forward the Executive's decision.

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Cc: Timothy Cairns; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); DG_DETI Press Office; Rooney, Eugene
Subject: RHI release

Folks,

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Thanks

Karen

11 February, 2016

Bell announces extension to RHI closure date

Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Jonathan Bell has announced that the domestic and non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes will remain open until February 29.

If legislation is approved by the Assembly on Monday, the earliest possible date for closure would have been midnight on Tuesday, February 16.

Jonathan Bell said: **“I have listened carefully to the concerns expressed in relation to both the non domestic and domestic RHI schemes and I fully appreciate that closure presents considerable difficulties for those who have invested in new technology and are in the midst of preparing for application.**

“Having taken those concerns on board, rather than close the schemes to new applications on the earliest possible date, I am proposing that, pending Assembly approval, both schemes remain open for a further two weeks until February 29.

~~“As I have previously stated,~~ I am bringing forward legislation to close both RHI schemes with great reluctance. They have both been hugely successful, with around 6% of Northern Ireland’s heating needs now provided through renewable technologies, exceeding the Executive’s target to achieve 4% renewable heat by 2015. However, this success comes at a price and significant levels of additional funding will now have to be found from the NI Executive’s budget going forward.

“My Department will be carrying out a comprehensive review and audit, to ensure that the operation of the schemes is in compliance with the scheme requirements and the underpinning legislation.”

~~The Minister added: “Looking ahead, those who are already part of the RHI schemes will continue to receive support for up to 20 years. I have also asked my officials to look at options for a more focused and affordable RHI scheme in the next mandate.”~~

From: [Timothy Cairns](#)
To: [Kerr, Sean](#)
Cc: [Cairns, Timothy](#)
Subject: Re: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme
Date: 11 February 2016 11:59:17

Remove quotation mark at end of para 2

Yes this is agreed letter. Also tell minister obviously given two week further period before closure we need to inform DFP as it will lead to expenditure

T

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Feb 2016, at 11:56, Kerr, Sean <Sean.Kerr@detini.gov.uk> wrote:

Tim

I'll get this one ready. Let me know if we can sign it.

Sean Kerr
Private Secretary to Minister Bell
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90529452
Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
E-mail: sean.kerr@detini.gov.uk

From: McCormick, Andrew (DETI) <Andrew.McCormick@detini.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2016 11:54
To: Kerr, Sean
Cc: Cairns, Timothy; Stewart, Chris (DETI); Mills, John (DETI); Fullerton, Karen; Harding, Leander; Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda
Subject: FW: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme

As discussed for signature and issue asap.

Many thanks.

From: McCoy, Laura **On Behalf Of** Mills, John (DETI)
Sent: 11 February 2016 11:06
To: Cairns, Timothy
Cc: McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); Wightman, Stuart; McIlwrath, Linda; Hill, Janice
Subject: RE: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable Heat Scheme
Importance: High

Tim

Updated letter with press release attached.

From: Mills, John (DETI)
Sent: 11 February 2016 10:33

To: Cairns, Timothy

Cc: McCoy, Laura; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI); Wightman, Stuart;
McIlwrath, Linda; Hill, Janice

Subject: Draft letter from Minister to Mervyn Storey Finance Minister - Closure of Renewable
Heat Scheme

Tim,

Draft letter form Minister to Finance Minister