

From: [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Cairns, Timothy](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#)
Cc: [McIlwrath, Linda](#)
Subject: RE: Minister's visit to Montupet
Date: 05 February 2016 10:37:53
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

Tim

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Incidentally, did the Minister refer definitively to the closure of RHI during the meeting?
We are getting calls today suggesting that he did.

C

From: Cairns, Timothy
Sent: 05 February 2016 10:27
To: McCormick, Andrew (DETI); Stewart, Chris (DETI)
Subject: RE: Minister's visit to Montupet

I have made my feelings known to Jeffrey Donaldson about this. We were informed at last minute that all these folk were coming. My instinct was to pull visit but Jeffrey said it would be personally embarrassing if I did. Regretfully I didnt follow my gut and couldn't go to the plant due to other meetings scheduled when I thought this was just a tour.

Shameful by Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry who set the whole thing up with the company and Jeffrey's office

Tim

Sent from my iPhone managed by BlackBerry Enterprise Service

----- Original Message -----

From: Stewart, Chris (DETI) <Chris.Stewart@detini.gov.uk>
Date: 5 February 2016, 09:09 GMT
To: Cairns, Timothy <Timothy.Cairns@detini.gov.uk>, McCormick, Andrew (DETI) <Andrew.McCormick@detini.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Minister's visit to Montupet

Andrew, Tim

To see in light of previous email about EMAG - clear solo run from MNI.

Sensitive commercial information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

C

C

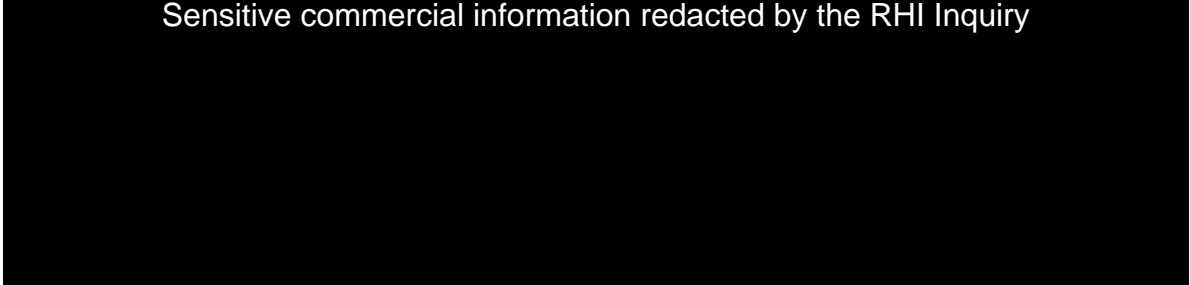
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Stevenson, Bill <Bill.Stevenson@detini.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2016 08:57
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: Dolaghan, Paul; Stewart, Chris (DETI); Frazer, Fred
Subject: Minister's visit to Montupet

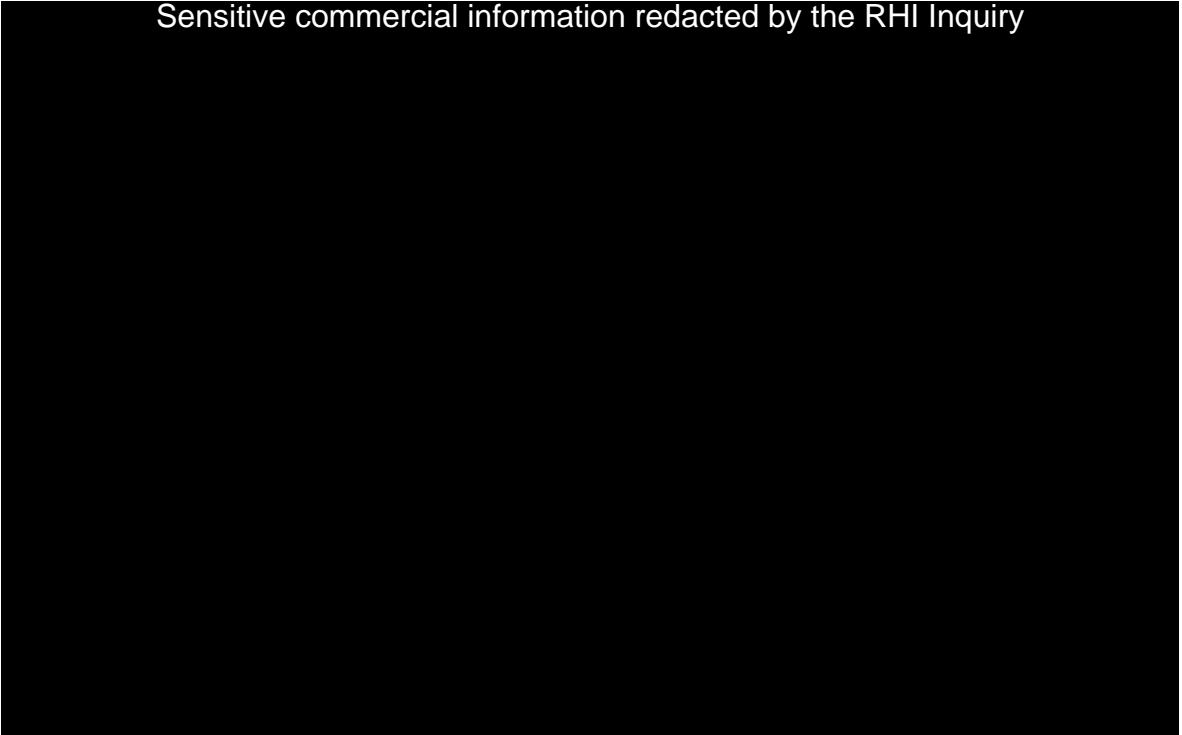
John

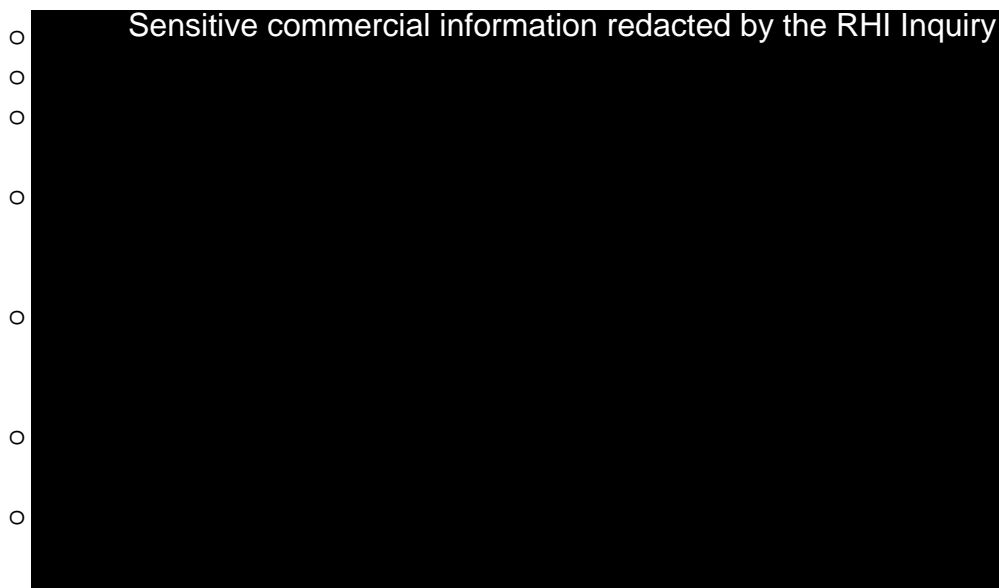
Readout from yesterday:

- As notified to the Minister this was a meeting which involved other manufacturers and large energy users – I didn't get them all but Seagate, Almac, Du Pont, Michelin, Montupet and Greiner Packaging all represented. NI Water also there (LEU). Jeffrey Donaldson and Jonathan Craig MLA also attended. Stephen Kelly (MNI) present

-  Sensitive commercial information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

- Opened to floor at that point

-  Sensitive commercial information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



- Minister then spoke
 - “I hear everything that has been said here today, but why is manufacturing sector growing”
 - Why are we 3% ahead of Scotland?
 - >80,000 manufacturing jobs in NI – we are doing something right (Montupet retort, unexplained, was that they are the wrong type of manufacturing job)
 - NI business costs 84% of UK and 95% of Ireland
 - Lowest attrition rates
 - 12.5% Corporation Tax rate from 2018
 - Expect significant job announcements by end-March
 - Tackling unemployment and best FDI in UK
 - Fed up with negative press reporting – manufacturing sector tells him “do not say manufacturing is in crisis” then when I respect this position press says I am in denial
 - Contrary to media reporting Michelin did not give advance notice of intention to close Ballymena plant – leaked by a manager in Italy through social media channel
 - Michelin reasons for withdrawal – (1) world glut of tyres, (2) China flooding market with cheaper product, (3) exchange rate fluctuations, (4) energy costs
 - Turning to energy specifically:
 - Major challenges ahead – closure of NIRO and RHI
 - Have formed advisory group – focus on short, sharp management
 - Being informed by best available sources on the ground – internal and external energy expertise and top UU economists
 - Have asked for confidentiality
 - I am not directing the panel – I met once to explain what I wanted and have since avoided the panel to avoid contamination of ideas or expectations
 - Where we can make a difference we will
 - Two ways into the panel with your thoughts – write to the chair or present your thoughts to Stephen Kelly who is a member
 - I expect recommendations for short, medium and long term (which may

- require legislative considerations)
- You will see action from me very quickly
- Judge me by my actions

Meeting ended at that point without a tour of the plant – Minister referenced other commitments.

Bill Stevenson

Electricity Branch
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 9052 9560 (ext: 29560)
Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9560
Web: www.detini.gov.uk

[NI Year of Food & Drink 2016](#)

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?

Andrew, Tim

Sensitive commercial information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

C

C

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Stevenson, Bill <Bill.Stevenson@detini.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2016 08:57
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: Dolaghan, Paul; Stewart, Chris (DETI); Frazer, Fred
Subject: Minister's visit to Montupet

John

Readout from yesterday:

- As notified to the Minister this was a meeting which involved other manufacturers and large energy users – I didn't get them all but Seagate, Almac, Du Pont, Michelin, Montupet and Greiner Packaging all represented. NI Water also there (LEU). Jeffrey

- growing”
- o Why are we 3% ahead of Scotland?
 - o >80,000 manufacturing jobs in NI – we are doing something right (Montupet retort, unexplained, was that they are the wrong type of manufacturing job)
 - o NI business costs 84% of UK and 95% of Ireland
 - o Lowest attrition rates
 - o 12.5% Corporation Tax rate from 2018
 - o Expect significant job announcements by end-March
 - o Tackling unemployment and best FDI in UK
 - o Fed up with negative press reporting – manufacturing sector tells him “do not say manufacturing is in crisis” then when I respect this position press says I am in denial
 - o Contrary to media reporting Michelin did not give advance notice of intention to close Ballymena plant – leaked by a manager in Italy through social media channel
 - o Michelin reasons for withdrawal – (1) world glut of tyres, (2) China flooding market with cheaper product, (3) exchange rate fluctuations, (4) energy costs
 - o Turning to energy specifically:
 - Major challenges ahead – closure of NIRO and RHI
 - Have formed advisory group – focus on short, sharp management
 - Being informed by best available sources on the ground – internal and external energy expertise and top UU economists
 - Have asked for confidentiality
 - I am not directing the panel – I met once to explain what I wanted and have since avoided the panel to avoid contamination of ideas or expectations
 - Where we can make a difference we will
 - Two ways into the panel with your thoughts – write to the chair or present your thoughts to Stephen Kelly who is a member
 - I expect recommendations for short, medium and long term (which may require legislative considerations)
 - You will see action from me very quickly
 - Judge me by my actions

Meeting ended at that point without a tour of the plant – Minister referenced other commitments.

Bill Stevenson

Electricity Branch
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 9052 9560 (ext: 29560)
Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
TextRelay: 18001 028 9052 9560
Web: www.detini.gov.uk



[NI Year of Food & Drink 2016](#)

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?