

**From:** [Wightman, Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Fullerton, Karen](#)  
**Cc:** [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#); [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#); [Hughes, Seamus](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent - RHI  
**Date:** 10 February 2016 17:26:25  
**Attachments:** [RHI Feb 11 2016.docx](#)

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Karen

Minor suggestions from John and I. Highlighted in yellow.

Stuart

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**From:** Fullerton, Karen  
**Sent:** 10 February 2016 17:06  
**To:** Wightman, Stuart  
**Subject:** Urgent - RHI

Stuart,

As discussed at Issues – can you cast your eye over the attached before it goes for clearance, please. Have been advised that the para re review etc must be included.

Would like it to issue as early as possible tomorrow morning so would appreciate any comments/amends asap.

Many 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.”**