

Hegarty, Damien

From: Kerr, Sean
Sent: 16 February 2016 20:52
To: McLaughlin, Christine (DETI); Hegarty, Damien; Private Office DETI
Cc: Stevenson, Valerie (DETI Private Office)
Subject: FW: Plan to close the RHI Scheme - Please don't!

From: <marc.mcilveen@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry>
Date: 11 February 2016 at 22:44:45 GMT
To: <jonathanbell620@hotmail.com>, <jonathan.bell@MLA.niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: Plan to close the RHI Scheme - Please don't!

Plan to close the RHI Scheme - Please don't!

Jonathan,

I would like to voice my shock and dismay that it is proposed to close the RHI Scheme at extremely short notice.

This will have a detrimental effect within Northern Ireland on the renewable installation industry, the renewable suppliers, businesses wishing to uptake the RHI and last but not certainly least private individuals building new homes and who wish to install renewables.

The renewable sector has invested in jobs and having their units and personnel MCS accredited to comply with this scheme which is just going to up and vanish. This will leave the sector in severe difficulties and slow down the uptake on renewable energy to the detriment of our environment.

My personal perspective on this is as a self-builder. It is an extreme undertaking for many who choose to build their own home and a project can take years from planning to completion. The financial commitment by individuals to these builds can be extremely significant. This sudden closure of a scheme which will have been factored into the financial plans of many of these self builds will now be plucked from the self-builder. Many people will already be committed to installing renewable energy technologies at much more cost than traditional heating or energy sources and will certainly have had them factored into their building control applications. To close the scheme so suddenly effectively leaves these people high and dry. Those who have progressed their plans in good faith in line with the RHI scheme will be seriously out of pocket.

I believe it is unfair for the government to have this scheme in place and suddenly pull the plug to the detriment of these people. It is quite clear that the current RHI overspend is not desirable, but I fail to see why this scheme has ended up in such bad shape if sufficient control protocols were in place. It appears that there has been a serious shortfall in how this scheme has been managed and how can this shortcoming be pushed onto the people who simply wanted to comply with government policy. If this was the banking sector collapse there would be an outcry and no doubt enquiries into how this was allowed to happen. If a private company had made these promises, they would likely be made to honour these by trading standards.

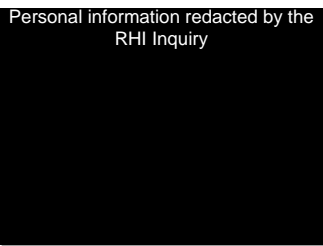
I ask that you reconsider your proposed course of action and do not close the RHI scheme immediately, but allow the current RHI run for a period of time (i.e. a year) and then graduate the RHI payments incrementally down until the scheme can be phased out over a reasonable time frame. This would be much fairer and give reasonable warning to individuals, allowing them to make informed choices about the energy sources they wish commit too.

I trust this email will not fall on deaf ears.

Regards

Marc McIlveen

Personal information redacted by the
RHI Inquiry

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