

Coyne, Terence

From: Janette O'Hagan [mailto:janette@heatboss.co.uk]

Sent: 12 May 2014 13:38

To: Hutchinson, Peter

Subject: RHI for biomass

Hi Peter,

I'm not sure if you'll recall, but I'd met with you and the RHI team back in the Autumn of last year. I had spoken to Minister Foster about my concerns back then and she'd asked that I schedule a meeting with Fiona Hepper, where I also met with yourself and another lady.

At the meeting I'd queried if there would be a time when NI's RHI payments would align with the rest of UK's (i.e. to offer a tiered approach to funding whereby the first 1314 peak load hours is funded at the higher amount (7.6p/kWh) and the remainder at a lower amount (1.9p/kWh) to encourage the buildings owners/operators to be more efficient in their usage). As you know in Northern Ireland, a building owner can get a flat rate of 6.1p/kWh no matter what their usage (if boiler is between 20 & 100 kWth).

As I'd said then, what we are seeing on the ground in Northern Ireland is that buildings are using more energy than before because it pays them to do so. The flat rate means that there is no incentive at all to be efficient so the heat in buildings in all year round with the windows open everywhere. When we had spoken, you did not believe that people would do this, but please believe me that it's happening with almost everyone that we approach. It's making it impossible for us to sell energy efficiency equipment to these buildings, even when that's exactly what should be happening as the first step and indeed what is happening in GB. The building owners there know that it's in their interests to be efficient, in Northern Ireland it is not - it's in their interests to be wasteful with what's strictly not a renewable energy source.

We've been told by a well established biomass company here to remove the saving detail on our product's literature because their clients were no longer interested in making any savings. I think that you'd agree that there is something inherently wrong with that approach to funding and it's going to put companies like ours out of business.

Could you please advise what the future plans are for the RHI tariffs for non-domestic within the coming years as we need an awareness of this to ensure that our company can survive in Northern Ireland. I urge you to table this issue again for discussion within the RHI team again and if you need proof of what's happening on the ground, I'd be happy to provide information. It's got to a stage now where it simply cannot be ignored any longer.

Please advise.

Kind regards,

Janette

On 8 Oct 2013, at 16:14, Hutchinson, Peter <Peter.Hutchinson@detini.gov.uk> wrote:

Janette,

Thanks for coming in to meet with us this morning, I hope you found it helpful.

As agreed, please see attached current RHI consultation that proposes the extension of the scheme to the domestic sector and new tariffs/technologies for the non-domestic sector.

This consultation is open for comment until Monday 14 October.

In addition, we discussed that it might be useful for you to contact DFP as they have responsibility for energy efficiency and energy usage in the public estate, an appropriate starting point might be Martyn.scott@dfpni.gov.uk. Explain that you met with DETI and were advised that DFP might be interested to learn of a new energy efficiency product that could significantly reduce heating costs.

If you need anything further please let me know.

Thanks,

Peter

Peter Hutchinson

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

<Consultation on Phase 2 of the NI RHI.PDF>

Many thanks,
Janette

heatboss

Personal information
redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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