

**From:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)  
**To:** [McCann, Brendan](#)  
**Cc:** [All DFE Branches Press Office](#); [McMurray, Stephen](#); [McAdams, Jonathan](#); [Harding, Leander](#); [Marten, Lucy](#); [Coyne, Terence](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Press query The Times - Ms Hepper's role in RHI  
**Date:** 03 February 2017 17:30:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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I think we need to change lines as from today to defer to the Inquiry – can you liaise with HOCS Office and settle a line please.

Many thanks.

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**From:** Marten, Lucy  
**Sent:** 03 February 2017 17:29  
**To:** Harding, Leander; McCormick, Andrew (DFE); McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Cc:** All DFE Branches Press Office; McMurray, Stephen; McAdams, Jonathan  
**Subject:** RE: Press query The Times - Ms Hepper's role in RHI

Leander

Could we change it slightly so that it doesn't comment on the officials' involvement?  
Perhaps something like:

**“The Department has instigated an independent fact-finding investigation to examine the management and control of the RHI scheme by Departmental officials. That investigation, being carried out by PWC, is ongoing and therefore it would not be appropriate to comment on any disciplinary issues until the investigation process is complete.”**

Lucy

## Lucy Marten

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**From:** Harding, Leander  
**Sent:** 03 February 2017 14:37  
**To:** McCormick, Andrew (DFE); Marten, Lucy; McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Cc:** All DFE Branches Press Office; McMurray, Stephen

**Subject:** Press query The Times - Ms Hepper's role in RHI

Dear All,

We have received the query below from Sean O'Driscoll who writes for The Times & the Belfast Telegraph.

"I'm reading Fiona Hepper's testimony before the enterprise and trade committee on December 2, 2010 in which she notes that Minister Foster wanted the RHI backdated to September, 2010, no matter when it was set up:

Ms Hepper: "She also said that, if the renewable heat incentive went ahead, we would backdate the support to the date of the publication of that report, which, as I said, was in September 2010. All that was designed to give certainty to the market."

The minister's wishes were formally noted in the committee's own report on renewable energy published in January, 2011.

I know Ms Hepper has moved to education but I'm wondering if she or the department have a comment on why Ms Foster wanted the scheme backdated, even before the pricing measures had been decided. (At the time it was believed that the UK government would cover the full cost)."

Previously when asked about the actions of Officials we have issued the line that investigations are being carried out, draft included below, however not sure if appropriate for this query. Grateful for advice.

**"The Department has instigated an independent fact-finding investigation to examine the management and control of the RHI scheme by Departmental officials. That investigation, being carried out by PWC is ongoing and therefore it would not be appropriate to comment on any disciplinary issues until the investigation process is complete."**

Many thanks

Leander