

From: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#); [Woods, Michael \(DETI\)](#)
Cc: [Wightman, Stuart](#); [Clydesdale, Alison](#); [McCormick, Andrew \(DETI\)](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#)
Subject: RE: RHI
Date: 22 April 2016 12:11:41

Chris

Suggest (thanks Stuart and Alison):

RHI

An independent review of the Non Domestic RHI is currently being undertaken by Deloitte. Phase 1 of this (concentrating on Ofgem's internal controls) is due to be delivered this week. The second phase will focus on site visits and is due to be completed and a report of findings provided by to DETI and Ofgem by the end of May. To date no evidence has been found of widespread abuse of the RHI scheme.

In response to the large increase in RHI installations prior to scheme closure, the Department will also be increasing its annual auditing programme for both the non-domestic and domestic RHI schemes. Subject to approvals, it is anticipated that an external audit provider will be procured to commence this work in the autumn. There are a number of other workstreams mainly looking at DETI's actions on the schemes.

NIRO

I'm afraid we're not clear what the "off grid heat generating system" is – it could be a biomass boiler (so would be RHI and you can't get NIRO for heat). The reference to ROCs may indicate CHP plants but it's also possible that "heat generating system" means an off grid wind turbine running a heater to dry biomass. Our general advice would be:

- The NIRO will close to all sizes of non-wind renewable electricity on 31 March 2017, with a 1 year grid and radar delay grace period.
- The NIRO closed to large scale wind on 31 March 16, with exceptions to closure in the form of grace periods. The Department are consulting again on closure arrangements for small scale wind closure.
- Projects will need to be commissioned and accredited by the relevant closure date, or meet the grace period criteria, to avail of ROCs.
- For all renewable electricity technologies, projects that are off grid will need to provide evidence to Ofgem to confirm this at the time of accreditation – a self declaration and a schematic diagram are normally required.

From: Stewart, Chris (DETI)

Sent: 20 April 2016 10:28

To: Mills, John (DETI); Woods, Michael (DETI)

Cc: Wightman, Stuart; Clydesdale, Alison; McCormick, Andrew (DETI); McIlwrath, Linda

Subject: FW: RHI

John and colleagues

For action please.

C

From: Cairns, Timothy

Sent: 20 April 2016 10:17

To: Stewart, Chris (DETI)

Subject: RHI

Chris

I was contacted this morning by the First Minister. She is wanting an update on the increased fraud detection measures promised under RHI when we closed the scheme and in response to the letter given to her.

Anecdotally she and others are hearing of widespread misuse of the scheme on the canvass trail. Obviously this is causing major concern. Can I get an update asap to brief her.

On a separate issue, the NIRO scheme, is it possible to get ROCs for an off grid heat generating system. Doesn't that require something from NIE which they are not doing during the moritorium period?

Thanks

Tim

Sent from my iPhone managed by BlackBerry Enterprise Service

From: [Stewart, Chris \(DETI\)](#)
To: [Cairns, Timothy](#)
Cc: [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#); [Woods, Michael \(DETI\)](#); [McIlwrath, Linda](#)
Subject: RE: RHI
Date: 22 April 2016 15:05:22

Tim

See advice below from Energy Division colleagues.

C

RHI

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We wondered whether you might have meant a 'zero exporting' scheme rather than an off-grid scheme. The former requires a grid connection, the latter does not. The following extract from the recent consultation document sets out the requirements.

Grid connection

Off-grid and zero export connection

Off-grid connections are connections which are entirely without connection to the electricity network. As no grid connection is necessary, a declaration from the generator stating such will be required. The declaration should be submitted to Ofgem along with the other evidence demonstrating that the project meets the eligibility criteria when applying for accreditation. Ofgem will not accept eligibility evidence prior to application for accreditation.

Zero export connections are still required to undergo the normal grid connection application process with NIE as an assessment of the impact is still required. Therefore, if a project does not have an accepted grid connection offer for zero export by the relevant date, it will not meet the eligibility criteria.

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