

Minister: for your consideration
and if content signature please
D Hegarty
9/4/2014

DFE-34009

From: John Mills
Energy Division

Date: 8 April 2014 [redacted in po 9/4/2014]

To: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

When is this scheme going to be announced?
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COR/160/2014: SOLAR PANELS - RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

Issue: Sandra Overend MLA has written, on behalf of a constituent, to enquire about the introduction of the Domestic RHI.

Timing: Routine

Need for referral to the Executive: None.

Presentational Issues: None

Freedom of Information: Elements of this submission may not be discloseable at present on grounds of policy development.

Financial Implications: None.

Statutory Equality Obligations: There are no Section 75 implications.

PFG/PSA implications: None.

Legislation Implications: None.

Recommendation: A draft response is attached at Annex A.

Background

Sandra Overend MLA has written on behalf of her constituent Mr George Purvis enquiring about the introduction of the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in Northern Ireland. This enquiry follows from officials' earlier contact with Mr Purvis in 2012.

2. On 24 May 2012 DETI launched the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme as a forerunner to the development of a Domestic RHI in Northern Ireland.
3. On 21 June 2012 Mr Purvis e-mailed the Department claiming that he had been misled by the company who installed a solar panel on his home in September 2011. As Mr Purvis had installed his solar panel before 24 May 2012 he was not eligible to receive a payment under the RHPP scheme. However we advised Mr Purvis that as he had installed after September 2010 (the date when you announced your intention to incentivise renewable heat), his solar panel installation would be eligible to apply to the Domestic RHI when it was launched. He was also given some indication of the level of support he might receive.
4. The final policy for the NI domestic RHI is being finalised and will be submitted for your consideration shortly. We are therefore unable to give the precise terms and conditions of the scheme but have provided the details contained in the recent public consultation in the attached response.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that you respond to Sandra Overend using the draft attached at **Annex A**.



JOHN MILLS
Energy Division

cc: David Sterling
David Thomson
Joanne McCutcheon
Dan Sinton
Peter Hutchinson
Press Office
Glynis Aiken
Alastair Ross, MLA, APS