

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Hepper, Fiona](#)
To: [Private Office DETI](#)
Cc: [Sterling, David](#); [Martin, Olivia](#); [McCutcheon, Joanne](#); [Clydesdale, Alison](#); [McBriar, Trevor](#); [McCune, David](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Neth_Energy](#)
Subject: SEIDWG - ETI Committee request for written update - submission for clearance
Date: 12 August 2013 13:03:19
Attachments: [image007.jpg](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[SEIDWG - ETI Committee request for written update - September 2013.DOCX](#)

Private Office

Please note previous email was recalled as there is a minor change to a date, please use this version.

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Regards,

Laura McCoy

Personal Secretary
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 9052 9200 (ext: 29200)
Textphone: 028 9052 9304
Web: www.detini.gov.uk



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

From: McCoy, Laura **On Behalf Of** Hepper, Fiona
Sent: 12 August 2013 12:33
To: Private Office DETI
Cc: Sterling, David; Martin, Olivia; McCutcheon, Joanne; Clydesdale, Alison; McBriar, Trevor; McCune, David; DG_DETI Press Office; Ross, Alastair; Aiken, Glynis; Neth_Energy
Subject: FW: SEIDWG - ETI Committee request for written update - submission for clearance

Private Office

Please see attached submission from Fiona Hepper for the attention of the Minister.

Regards,

Laura McCoy

Personal Secretary
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Netherleigh

Massey Avenue
Belfast, BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 9052 9200 (ext: 29200)
Textphone: 028 9052 9304
Web: www.detini.gov.uk



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

From: Fiona Hepper
Energy Division

Date: 12 August 2013

To: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

cc Distribution List below

**REQUEST FROM ETI COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION ON THE WORK OF THE
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP**

Issue: The ETI Committee has requested information on the work of the Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group (SEIDWG).

Timing: A response is due with the Clerk of the Committee no later than 12 September 2013 to ensure consideration at the Committee meeting on 19 September.

**Need for Referral
to the Executive:** Not required.

Presentational Issues: None.

Freedom of Information: Fully discloseable.

**Programme for
Government:** None.

Financial Implications: None.

Legislative Implications: None.

**Statutory Equality
Obligations:** None.

Recommendation: That you:

- (i) note this submission and approve the draft cover letter and paper to the ETI Committee (attached at **Annex B**); and,
- (ii) agree that, due to the establishment of the NIAUR led Renewables Grid Liaison Group, the Grid Development and Renewable Energy sub-group should be stood down.

Background

1. The ETI Committee requested information on the work being progressed by the Sustainable Energy Inter Departmental Working Group (SEIDWG) at its meeting on 4 July 2013.
2. The Executive agreed the Terms of Reference for the SEIDWG (**Annex A**) in November 2008 and that the group would be chaired by the DETI Minister. Membership is made up of senior representatives from all NI government departments, including the non-ministerial NIAUR Departments, with the exception of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL).
3. The aim of SEIDWG is primarily to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Government to the promotion of sustainable energy. The outputs of the Group include the development of a report of recommendations in respect of co-ordinated sustainable energy activity in Northern Ireland. The report was approved by the Executive on 10 February 2011.
4. SEIDWG has five sub-groups on: Planning and Renewable Energy; Grid Development and Renewable Energy; Energy Efficiency; Sustainable Communications and Renewable Heat. Progress of the main group and the five sub-groups is attached at **Annex B**.

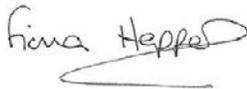
Current Position

5. The main group last met on 5 September 2012. The recommendations approved by the Executive have been progressed as far as possible and, resources permitting, the terms of reference will be reviewed and revised later this year.
6. The Grid Development & Renewable Energy sub-group has not met for some time, although a number of issues have been progressed through bi-lateral meetings. NIAUR set-up the Renewables Grid Liaison Group in 2012 to discuss and facilitate progress in the development of Northern Ireland's electricity grid and renewable connections, in order to achieve the 40% electricity target.
7. The group includes representatives from the Utility Regulator, SONI, NIE and the renewable generation sector; a representative from DETI attends meetings as an observer to ensure that the policy position is fully considered. The membership and remit of the NIAUR led group mirrors the SEIDWG Grid Development and Renewable Energy sub-group, which, to avoid duplication, I recommend should now be stood down.
8. The update references letters to the Chairman of the Committee updating him on the publication of both the community and renewable energy report and the 2050 energy report (noted in bold in the update text). Both of the submissions on these subjects are, at the time of writing, with you for approval. If these have not been approved at the time of issuing of this update to the Committee on SEIDWG, then the update will need to be amended to reflect that.

Recommendation

9. I recommend that you:

- (i) note this submission and approve the draft paper to the ETI Committee (attached at **Annex B**); and,
- (ii) agree that, due to the establishment of the NIAUR led Renewables Grid Liaison Group, the Grid Development and Renewable Energy sub-group should now be stood down.



FIONA HEPPER
Ext 29215

Attachments

- Annex A** SEIDWG Terms of Reference
- Annex B** Covering letter to ETI Committee Clerk
- Annex C** Draft paper to ETI Committee

cc David Sterling
Olivia Martin
Joanne McCutcheon
Alison Clydesdale
Trevor McBriar
David McCune
Press Office
Alastair Ross MLA, APS
Glynis Aiken, PS/Minister

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MINISTERIALLY-LED INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP (IDWG) ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AS AGREED BY EXECUTIVE

Chairmanship

The IDWG shall be chaired by the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment who has primary responsibility for sustainable energy policy in Northern Ireland.

Aims

The aim of the IDWG shall be to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Government to the promotion of sustainable energy in line with both current sustainable energy targets in the Programme for Government and with future EU-led targets for 2020 flowing from the Renewable Energy Directive. It will also ensure that appropriate associated support structures are in place and that there is an assumption in favour of sustainable energy in Northern Ireland.

The IDWG will monitor progress on the full implementation in Northern Ireland of relevant EU Directives in the field of sustainable energy, which are likely to form the basis for future renewable energy targets.

The IDWG shall ensure that all Government Departments work together to ensure that policies and practices are in concert with each other and with the aim of maximising use of public funding and delivering value for money in the support of sustainable energy initiatives in Northern Ireland.

The IDWG will take due cognisance of current work of OFMDFM in relevant areas.

Membership

The IDWG shall be made up of senior representatives of all NI government departments, including the non-ministerial NIAUR, because all have policies and practices which touch on sustainable energy or which could aid the promotion of sustainable energy.

The group may also invite such external stakeholders working in the field of sustainable energy, or energy more widely, or who otherwise have an interest in sustainable energy, to take part in the IDWG or its sub-groups.

Advisory groups and working groups

The IDWG may create such advisory groups as it considers necessary. These may include existing and new areas of inter-departmental co-operation, such as:

- energy efficiency;
- renewable energy;
- communications; and
- any such other matters as the IDWG may determine.

However, it will be for the IDWG to define the scope of each advisory group, and who should chair the group (including scope to have the advisory groups chaired by a stakeholder).

Smaller ad hoc Working groups may also be established to consider specific aspects of an advisory groups remit. For example, the renewable energy advisory group may convene working group as necessary to consider bioenergy, wind, microgeneration, renewable heat, planning etc.

Frequency of meeting

It is suggested that the IDWG should meet quarterly to begin with, with the advisory groups meeting on an ad hoc basis as necessary.

Resourcing and secretarial support

The main IDWG will be supported by DETI's Sustainable Energy Branch. It is hoped that advisory groups may be supported by the relevant Department/ stakeholders.

Outputs

The IDWG shall develop a report of recommendations in respect of co-ordinated sustainable energy activity in Northern Ireland by September 2009, including appropriate structure(s) to continue joined up delivery.

The composition and terms of reference of the IDWG will be reviewed as part of the IDWG report.

DRAFT

Mr Jim McManus
Departmental Committee Clerk
Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SW

**ETI COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR BRIEFING ON THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP**

The ETI Committee has asked to receive details on the work of the Sustainable Energy Inter Departmental Working Group. A paper is attached for consideration.

If you require any further information please contact either myself, Olivia Martin or Trevor McBriar on 028 9052 9381 / 9052 9515.

Yours sincerely

**FIONA HEPPER
HEAD OF ENERGY DIVISION
X29215**

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP (SEIDWG): UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP

Background

The Executive agreed the Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Energy Inter-departmental Working Group (SEIDWG) in December 2008. Membership is made up of senior representatives from all NI government departments, including the non-ministerial NIAUR, with the exception of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

The aim of SEIDWG is primarily to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Government to the promotion of sustainable energy. The outputs of the Group include the development of a report of recommendations in respect of co-ordinated sustainable energy activity in Northern Ireland, which was approved by the Executive on 10 February 2011.

Progress

The recommendations approved by the Executive have been progressed in the following way:

- the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which includes a statement of leadership for the Executive on sustainable energy, was approved by the Executive on 5 April 2012.
- on acceptance of the Committee's recommendation in the report on their inquiry into renewable energy, the SEAP included a commitment that DETI would undertake work to establish a long term vision, to 2050, for energy in Northern Ireland. [**The Minister recently wrote to the Chair of the Committee to advise that the report is complete.**]
- work on the consolidation of energy efficiency vires has been put on hold pending the outcome of wider work being undertaken to consider restructuring of Departments.

Sub-Groups

The SEIDWG has five sub-groups:

- Planning and Renewable Energy;
- Grid Development and Renewable Energy;
- Energy Efficiency;
- Sustainable Communications and
- Renewable Heat Strategy.

The recent activities of each sub-group are detailed below.

Planning and Renewable Energy

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dealing primarily with administrative arrangements between DETI and DOE was signed in June this year. The MoU aims to ensure that energy infrastructure and energy installations requiring a consent under

Article 39 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (as amended) are prioritised and that information on progress through the energy consent, marine licensing and planning processes is communicated efficiently between DETI and DOE;

- A study on the relationship between communities and the development of renewable energy, and how communities can engage with developers and participate and/or benefit from renewable energy developments. **[The Minister recently wrote to the Chair of the Committee to advise that the report is complete]**
- Consideration of the implications of the Planning Act 2011 and, in particular, the threshold proposed for Regionally Significant Developments is ongoing.

Grid Development and Renewable Energy

- NIAUR set-up the Renewables Grid Liaison Group in 2012 to discuss and facilitate progress in the development of Northern Ireland's electricity grid and renewable connections in order to achieve the 40% electricity target.
- The group includes representatives from the Utility Regulator, SONI, NIE and the renewable generation sector; a representative from DETI attends meetings as an observer to ensure that the policy position is fully considered. The membership and remit of the NIAUR led group mirrors the SEIDWG Grid Development & Renewable Energy sub-group, which, to avoid duplication, will now be stood down.

Energy Efficiency

- The group is working on the Energy Efficiency Directive which was published last autumn and must be transposed by the end of June 2014.
- Work on the consolidation of energy efficiency vires has been put on hold pending the outcome of wider work being undertaken to consider restructuring of Departments.

Sustainable Energy Communications

- Appointed Navigator Blue in August 2011 to assist with the development of a common brand to be used across Government for all sustainable energy messaging.
- The 'Energy Wise' brand was first used by DETI for a campaign, which included television adverts, to promote energy efficiency in October 2011.
- Since then the 'Energy Wise' brand has been used in all departmental sustainable energy campaigns. However, NI Executive restrictions on advertising expenditure have resulted in much less activity than was previously envisaged.
- Two Renewable Heat Incentive campaigns were organised for autumn 2012 and spring 2013.
- Identified the need for high quality sustainable messaging to be available on the web and, working with NI Direct, created an 'Energy Wise' section on the website.

Renewable Heat Strategy

- Provide an ongoing monitoring and advice function to ensure that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) (and any other policy initiatives) is supporting the delivery of the 10% renewable heat target.

- Identify key aspects of an overarching renewable heat strategy/road map and assist in the development of the strategy.
- Monitor and report on progress against previously agreed actions within the Bioenergy Action Plan.
- Main focus at present is the introduction of the second phase of the RHI scheduled for end 2013.

**Energy Division
DETI**

xx August/September 2013