

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Hepper, Fiona](#)
To: [DfE Private Office](#)
Cc: [Sterling, David](#); [Thomson, David](#); [McCutcheon, Joanne](#); [Hutchinson, Peter](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [Neth_Energy](#)
Subject: FW: Invitation INV/296/2012 : Request to meet to discuss the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive
Date: 26 March 2012 11:16:00
Attachments: [OTOP.png](#)
[INV 296 2012 - Devine and Associates.DOCX](#)

Private Office

Please see attached briefing 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



www.ni2012.com

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

From: gillian.cahoon@detini.gov.uk [mailto:gillian.cahoon@detini.gov.uk]
Sent: 16 March 2012 17:32
To: Hepper, Fiona
Cc: Dolaghan, Paul; [Neth_Energy](#); [Sterling, David](#); [Cooper, Trevor](#); [Thomson, David](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Stevenson, Valerie](#); [Baxter, Clare](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [Cahoon, Gillian](#); [McKernan, Janet](#)
Subject: Invitation INV/296/2012 : Request to meet to discuss the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

INVITATION - URGENT

Reference: INV/296/2012
Invitation From: Debra Devine

Subject: Request to meet to discuss the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive

Referred To: HEPPER FIONA (MRS) (Energy Branch)

Date Referred: 16/03/2012

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide 'quick' advice and draft reply for signature by Minister. To be with Private Office by noon on 26/03/2012.

Gillian Cahoon (Private Office)
Netherleigh House Tel:- Ext 29440

Copied To For Information:
cc Energy
Cahoon Gillian (Miss)
McKernan Janet (Mrs)

DETI MINISTER INVITATION CASES - ADVICE PROFORMA

Completed by: Fiona Hepper
Energy Division

Ext: 29215

Date: 26 March 2012

INVITATION NUMBER:	INV 296/2012
INVITATION FROM:	Debra Devine, on behalf of Devine and Associates who are Consultant Engineers based in Fermanagh.
EVENT / MEETING:	Ms Devine has written to request a meeting to discuss the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).
DATE OF EVENT / MEETING (IF KNOWN)	The meeting would be held at a time and venue of your convenience.
PROPOSED VENUE:	The meeting would be held at a time and venue of your convenience – Ms Devine has suggested Enniskillen as a potential venue.
REASONS TO ACCEPT / DECLINE THE INVITATION	Ms Devine would like to discuss the proposed RHI and the exclusion of landfill gas from the scheme (issues detailed below). Officials in Energy Division have already had some discussions with Devine and Associates and as the proposals for the RHI are yet to be finalised it would not be appropriate to meet at this time.
ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	<p>Ms Devine's major concern is the exclusion of Landfill Gas from the RHI. DETI has previously said that tariffs for Landfill Gas would be considered as part of phase 2 of the RHI. There are a number of reasons for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landfill gas is not incentivised under the GB RHI so DETI would need to take the lead on issues relating to standards, metering and measurements on this issue. - Landfill gas qualifies for support under the NIRO and therefore linkages with RHI would need to be considered. - Landfill gas sites tend not to be in areas where there is a significant heat load i.e. no local housing, businesses or buildings. Therefore providing a RHI could lead to the development of artificial heat loads. - Energy production from landfill gas is timebound and therefore 20 year tariffs are unlikely to be suitable.
FOI STATUS OF ADVICE	Elements of this submission may not be disclosable at present on grounds of policy development.

RECOMMENDATION IF MINISTER SHOULD ATTEND / MEET (YES/NO)	It is recommended that the Minister declines this meeting request on the grounds that work on finalising the NI RHI is still ongoing. A draft response is attached at Annex A.
PRIVATE OFFICE COMMENTS	

SPECIAL ADVISOR'S COMMENTS	
MINISTER'S DECISION	

Annex A

Draft letter to Ms Debra Devine

Debra Devine
Devine and Associates Ltd
17 Lackaghboy Road
Lackaghboy Industrial Estate
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 4RL
debra@devineandassociates.com

March 2012

Dear Ms Devine

RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 March 2012 regarding the proposed introduction of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), specifically raising the issue of incentives for landfill gas. The Minister has read your correspondence and has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Minister is committed to developing the renewable heat market in Northern Ireland and to raise the level of renewable heat to 10% by 2020. The Northern Ireland RHI is a key policy to support this objective and work is currently underway to finalise proposals in advance of implementation.

In your letter you raise the issue of renewable heat incentives for landfill gas. You are aware that neither the GB RHI nor the DETI proposals include incentives for landfill gas. This does not rule out the possibility of incentives being developed for this technology in future phases of the Northern Ireland scheme. However there would be a number of issues to consider, including the measurement of heat output; the appropriate lifetime of a tariff; and the uses of the heat output.

In addition, as Northern Ireland currently incentivises renewable electricity generation from landfill gas through the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation, if the RHI were also to be available, a rigorous process would have to be in place to ensure there was no risk of double incentivisation.

As the RHI is still being developed it is not appropriate for the Minister to meet you on this matter at this time.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Glynis Aiken
Private Secretary to Arlene Foster, MLA, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment