

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Hepper, Fiona](#)
To: [DfE Private Office](#)
Cc: [Sterling, David](#); [Thomson, David](#); [McCutcheon, Joanne](#); [Baxter, Clare](#); [Hutchinson, Peter](#); [Sinton, Dan](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Stewart, Susan](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Neth Energy](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#)
Subject: COR/241/2012: Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme
Date: 01 May 2012 16:37:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[COR 241 2012 Pat Doherty re RI.DOC](#)

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

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From: Fiona Hepper
Energy Division

Copy Distribution List Below

Date: 1 May 2012

To: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

COR/241/2012: RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME

Issue: Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA has written to you asking when the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be launched.

Timing: Routine

Need for referral to the Executive: Not applicable

Presentational issues: None

FOI implications: None

Financial Implications: N/A

Legislation Implications: N/A

PSA/PFG Implications: A target for renewable heat is in the Programme for Government.

Statutory Equality Obligations: None

Recommendation: That you approve the draft letter of response to Mr Doherty attached at Annex B.

Background

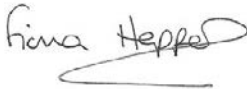
Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA, has written to you asking when the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be launched. He notes that the renewable industry had expected the scheme to launch in April 2012 and that this deadline has now past. The letter is attached at **Annex A** for your information.

Current Position

2. Significant progress has been made on the development, design and implementation of the NI RHI. This has included finalising the design of the scheme, gaining formal approvals, drafting legislation and developing administration arrangements.
3. Currently, the only outstanding approval is the State Aid approval from the EU Commission. The most recent correspondence with the EU Commission was on 27 April when the case handler raised a couple of relatively straightforward questions. These have been answered and we are now awaiting final clearance. It is our understanding that the case handler is largely content with the papers and the proposals. State Aid clearance must be obtained before the RHI can commence.
4. DFP clearance was given to the entire Renewable Heat project on 27 April 2012. This clearance applies to the RHI and the associated administrative arrangements with Ofgem and also the Renewable Heat Premium Payments (RHPP).
5. As the RHPP scheme does not require either state aid clearance or legislation, Energy Division can begin implementation shortly. It is hoped that all necessary arrangements will be in place to enable you to launch the RHPP week commencing 21 May 2012.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that you approve the attached draft letter to Mr Doherty attached at **Annex B**.



FIONA HEPPER
Energy Division
(Ext 29215)

cc: David Sterling
David Thomson
Joanne McCutcheon
Clare Baxter
Peter Hutchinson
Dan Sinton
Glynis Aiken
Susan Stewart
Alastair Ross MLA, APS
Neth Energy
Press Office



Pat Doherty MP, MLA
West Tyrone Constituency Office
4, James Street
Omagh
BT78 1DH

DATE: 26th April 2012

Minister Arlene Foster
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Netherleigh Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

Dear Minister,

Ref: Request for information

I would be grateful if your department would advise me of when the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme going to be launched. I have been advised that the renewables industry was told it would open in April but this deadline appears to have been extended.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Doherty".

Pat Doherty MP, MLA

Draft letter to Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA

Mr Pat Doherty MP MLA
West Tyrone Constituency Office
4 James Street
Omagh
BT78 1DH

May 2012

Dear

RE: RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 April 2012 seeking information on the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

My Department has carried out a significant amount of work on the development, design and implementation of the RHI. A public consultation on the scheme was launched on 20 July 2011 and was open for comment until 3 October 2011. A high number of responses were received and the Department has carried out further analysis on a range of issues in order to determine the final policy option. This further analysis has concluded and has informed the levels of assistance that will be available under the scheme.

The RHI scheme was intended to be launched in April 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter. However, before I can make an announcement detailing the scheme, all the necessary approvals including State Aid must be in place. My Departmental officials are making very good progress and the internal approval process has been completed. I would be hopeful that the State Aid approval would be forthcoming shortly, nonetheless, you will appreciate that the RHI scheme cannot be launched until State Aid approval is received which is beyond my influence.

I hope to make an announcement on the final structure and design of a Northern Ireland scheme once all approvals have been obtained. Unfortunately, at this time, I cannot advise on a specific date on which the announcement will be made or the scheme will launch.

I hope that you find this response helpful

ARLENE FOSTER MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment