

From: [McCoy, Laura](#) on behalf of [Mills, John \(DETI\)](#)
To: [DfE Private Office](#)
Cc: [Sterling, David](#); [Thomson, David](#); [McCutcheon, Joanne](#); [Sinton, Dan](#); [Hutchinson, Peter](#); [DG DETI Press Office](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Neth_Energy](#)
Subject: FW: (Joanne / Peter - 8 April) Correspondence -- Ref. Number: COR/160/2014 : SOLAR PANELS - RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE
Date: 09 April 2014 09:56:00
Attachments: [COR 160 2014 Domestic RHI.tr5](#)
[COR 160 2014 Domestic RHI.DOCX](#)

Private Office

Please see attached advice and draft reply from John Mills 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
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Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?

From: Christine.McLaughlin@detini.gov.uk [<mailto:Christine.McLaughlin@detini.gov.uk>]
Sent: 01 April 2014 15:51
To: Mills, John (DETI)
Cc: Dolaghan, Paul; [Neth_Energy](#); [Sterling, David](#); [Thomson, David](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Aiken, Glynis](#); [Stevenson, Valerie \(DETI Private Office\)](#); [DG_DET1 Press Office](#); [Hegarty, Damien](#); [McLaughlin, Christine \(DETI\)](#)
Subject: (Joanne / Peter - 8 April) Correspondence -- Ref. Number: COR/160/2014 : SOLAR PANELS - RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

URGENT - CORRESPONDENCE

Reference: COR/160/2014
Raised By: Sandra Overend

Subject: SOLAR PANELS - RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

Referred To: MILLS JOHN (MR) (Energy Branch)

Date Referred: 01/04/2014

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice and a draft reply for signature by the Minister.

To be with Private Office not later than 08/04/2014 before Close of Play

For further information etc. contact :

Christine McLaughlin (Private Office)
Netherleigh House Tel : Ext 29222

Copied To For Information:
cc Energy
Hegarty Damien (Mr)
McLaughlin Christine (Mrs)

From: John Mills
Energy Division

Date: 8 April 2014

To: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

Copy Distribution List Below

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

DRAFT REPLY FROM MINISTER TO SANDRA OVEREND MLA

Sandra Overend MLA
Mid Ulster UUP Advice Centre
1 High Street
Moneymore
Magherafelt
BT45 7PD

RE: SOLAR PANELS - RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

Thank you for your letter of 27th March 2014 regarding your constituent Mr George Purvis and the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme.

I hope to make an announcement on the domestic RHI scheme shortly and you will understand that I cannot pre-empt that announcement in correspondence. However, in the public consultation on the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, which closed in October 2013, the lead option considered for solar thermal panels was incentive payments over seven years. It should be noted that a seven year RHI is no less lucrative than an asset life (20 year) tariff system which you mention in your letter. The level of support is the same but compressed over a shorter period.

I trust this is helpful in answering Mr Purvis's query. My officials will notify him when the domestic RHI is launched.

ARLENE FOSTER MLA**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment**