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Taskforce –
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Note: The legal representative for the author of this letter confirmed on the 08/03/18 that the date on this letter should read 19 October 2015 and not 2014 (See WIT-17714 to WIT-17716).

Annotated by the RHI Inquiry.

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Dear Edmund

RHI INSPECTION VISITS/AUDITS

In our last telecon meeting on 15th September we discussed the issue of inspection visits/audits and I know we have agreed to have the item on the agenda for our next meeting tomorrow morning.

I thought it might be useful to record something formally in the system in advance of that meeting to highlight the issue, (I know Seamus sent you an email after our last meeting about the matter).

DETI was wrongly of the impression that more site visits were being undertaken, probably in the order of 1 in 10 for new installations, with additional regular checks on meter readings.

As discussed we hear through anecdotal evidence of “gaming” of the system and we would want to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to circumvent this as far as is practical and possible.

We can discuss further in our meeting but our thinking would be that 1 in 10 inspections, perhaps targeted at installations recording more than 400,000kWh annual hours might be a workable framework. In addition, (and your procedures may already cover this), regular submission of photographs of meter readings could be a useful additional control.

I appreciate that this is likely to attract additional costs etc and it would be useful if you had some ball park figures around this that we could feed into our discussions. One other option we could consider would be for DETI to audit a number of installations either directly or through a procured third party. I know that you plan to have one of your audit colleagues' join our meeting and it would indeed be very useful to have that perspective feeding in to the discussion.

S. Wightman

Yours sincerely

STUART WIGHTMAN
Head of Energy Efficiency Branch