

Review of Small Scale ROC levels

- Notification to EU completed on biomass on 3 month standstill period - standstill period ends early July.

RO/ NIRO Closure Order / grace periods

- Submission on small scale grace period options with HoD – but agree more general submission will issue first.
- Closure Order drafted as far as possible but not cleared by DSO. Cannot be completed until Ministerial decision on grace periods. Needs to be laid in June.
- SL1 for Closure Order to be with HoD in June.

Small Scale FIT

- DECC meeting on SS FIT review with other DAs 4 June – Scotland and Wales travelling to London to attend – might be worth NI (Michael H) attending as well.

Community Energy

- Draft Action Plan completed – to be circulated to other Departments. Response date 22 June. Will go to HoD during July for approval - aiming for publication in August.

Other

- Offshore decommissioning – submission drafted for Minister to write to NIO (again) and Crown Estate in an effort to move this forward. With HoD by end of week.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY (STUART)**RHI Phase 1**

- Unprecedented increase in uptake of the Non-domestic Scheme has seen total applications more than triple (208 – 30 June 2014 to 651 on 22 May 2015).
- Now on track to achieve 4% target during 2015, however committed monthly non-domestic RHI payments have risen from £430k to £1.5m over the last 11 months. Forecast RHI expenditure in 2015/16 now expected to be £23.2m.
- Barnett consequential RHI budget for 2015/16 expected to be @ £13m. Working with Finance Branch to get urgent clarification on current/future RHI budgets.
- Tiered tariff to be introduced for most popular Biomass tariff in October 2015 as part of Phase 2.

RHI Phase 2 (Domestic)

- Over 200 applications received to date, rising quickly after slow start.
- Significant issue has arisen over how annual RHI payments are calculated. EPCs in NI are produced using an older (2009) version of the software than GB (2012) and don't report the heat information needed for deeming RHI payments. Discussions ongoing with DFP on this issue.

RHI Phase 2 (Non-Domestic)

- Work ongoing to review and finalise Phase 2 policy proposals.
- Proposals passed to Ofgem to provide cost estimate and to prepare short feasibility study for updating their systems and procedures to accommodate proposed changes. £100k profiled in 2015/16 for development costs associated with this work.
- Work started on State Aid Notification for additional technologies and tariffs proposed under Phase 2.
- Work will soon start to prepare draft amendment Regulations for Phase 2 proposals.

Energy Efficiency Directive

- Previous Minister had agreed in principle that DETI lead on EnergyWise (formerly 'HEaT') project. Meeting to be arranged to brief new Minister / SpAd
- EnergyWise Scheme now a DETI project with Chris Stewart the SRO. Work underway to finalise business case for pilot scheme to be introduced later this year, and also to complete other project documentation – PID, Risk Register etc.
- DETI/DSD/OFMDFM have agreed to share SIB costs for next 6 months until scheme is launched. £50k has been profiled for this.
- Eugene Rooney / Trevor Cooper briefed on proposals.
- Development of OBC for Pilot Scheme is still ongoing.

2015/16 Budgets

- DECC budget £430m for 2015/16 - DETI share of this would be @ £10-12m, but no confirmation forthcoming. Work ongoing with DETI Finance to seek clarity on future RHI budgets for 2015/16 onwards and if we can continue to spend out of the original £25m.
- Revise RHI AME forecasts will be provided as part of current exercise to inform Chancellor's July Budget
- £108.5k has been profiled for Ofgem for RHI Phase 2: £8.5k for a feasibility study and £100k has been profiled for development costs.

CO-ORDINATION (PAUL)

NI Assembly

- DETI Orals – scheduled for answer on Tuesday 2 June - await possible LTTs request for Topicals
- ETI Committee oral briefing on Electricity Review Part III scheduled for 2 June.

2015/16 Divisional Plan

- Divisional Plan update to 31 December with HoD for sign-off.
- Divisional Plan 2015/16 performance to 31 March with HoBs for updating.
- Risk commentary/ratings finalised on 2015/16 Divisional Plan – final draft to go to HoD for sign-off.

Finance

- June monitoring return submitted which included bid to cover additional SO post for Energy Efficiency Branch.
- Awaiting urgent feedback from Finance /DFP re: AME budget

Staffing General

- End -Year Reviews – staff interviews / reports - vast majority have been actioned.
- 2015/16 PPA's to be finalised / agreed asap.
- Currently two SOs down in form of Personal information redacted by the RHI. Resources Group met on 13 May – no progress to report.
- Voluntary Exit Scheme – await further updates on position/progress.

Other

- Secure File Transfer Protocol / Shared Group Drive exercise – Divisional briefing now scheduled for 12 June.
- Office safety risk assessments need to be completed – slight delay in progressing due to focus on NICS Website consolidation exercise currently being undertaken.