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Dr Alex

PLANNED AMENDMENTS TO THE RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS

I am writing to inform you that we are laying regulations to make a number of amendments to the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (amendment) Regulations. Following on from the publication of the response to our July consultation on the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) entitled "Providing certainty, improving performance" which was published on 27 February 2013.

These regulations give effect to the emissions limits for biomass boilers, changes to the metering requirements and finally a number of regulatory improvements to the non-domestic scheme.

The regulations will prescribe the emissions limits that will need to be met by all biomass boilers joining the non-domestic scheme, these limits were published in 2011 and are set at 30 grams per gigajoule (g/GJ) net thermal input for particulate matter (PM) and 150g/GJ for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). They also detail the changes we are making to the metering requirements to make them simpler and less burdensome. Finally these regulations will cover four administrative changes to the regulations which are being done to improve the scheme and increase uptake, these changes are:

- Allowing accredited installations to be moved to different locations
- Clarifying that water in the ground can be used as a heat source by a ground source heat pump
- Making commercial cleaning and drying processes eligible for the scheme, and;
- Allowing RHI installations to be used as the assessment installation when installers are join the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS).

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We plan to lay the regulations to enact the policy on 10 June 2013. Subject to Parliamentary procedure, the regulations should come into force on or about 1 August 2013.

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