



The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP

Secretary of State  
Department of Energy  
and Climate Change

Arlene Foster  
Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Northern Ireland Executive  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast  
BT2JP

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*Chris Huhne*

## ENERGY BILL

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2011. The Bill completed Commons Committee Stage on 21 June 2011 and I am delighted to let you know that the extension of the Renewable Heat Incentive legislation to Northern Ireland has now been incorporated.

I am writing to advise you of a government amendment that we intend to move at the Report Stage in the House of Commons. This is the only government amendment we plan to lay that will apply to Northern Ireland at this stage, and I understand that it is a reserved matter.

### **Reinstating a modified clause on funded nuclear decommissioning Arrangements**

This amendment modifies the original clause 102 to provide that the Secretary of State may not agree to enter into an agreement (setting out when the Secretary of State may, or may not, exercise his power to propose a modification to a Funded Decommissioning Programme) unless satisfied that the agreement includes adequate provision for dealing with modifications of the programme in the event that the programme ceases to be prudent. The amendment will also allow for certain matters to be determined by a third party and the Secretary of State may agree to be bound by such a determination. This amendment is being tabled to address the concerns of committee members, specifically that the clause does not deal with unforeseen circumstances in what will be a very long-term agreement.

I would also like to mention how pleased I am with the collaborative working relationship that is in place between our departments. I am extremely grateful to yourself and your officials for your work on the Energy Bill so far and I look forward to the continuation of this way of working in the future.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Sir Gus O'Donnell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Huhne', written in a cursive style.

**CHRIS HUHNE**