

From: [McCutcheon, Joanne](#)
To: [Hepper, Fiona](#); [Hutchinson, Peter](#)
Subject: FW: NI RHI and outcomes of the Casework Committee
Date: 19 April 2012 12:21:16
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[For info](#)
[Joanne](#)

Joanne McCutcheon

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From: Keith Avis [<mailto:Keith.Avis@ofgem.gov.uk>]
Sent: 19 April 2012 08:37
To: McCutcheon, Joanne
Cc: Luis Castro; David Fletcher
Subject: NI RHI and outcomes of the Casework Committee

Joanne cc: Luis, David

Firstly I should introduce myself as the new Senior Manager covering the Northern Ireland Renewable heat Incentive Scheme. I am picking up on this work from David Fletcher.

I am aware that we are awaiting your decision to proceed with the development phase of the scheme and that you have taken away our response to the set of questions you had raised in March in relation to specific parts of the terms of the agreement between us. It would certainly be useful for me to understand if you have enough information from us, and if so, when you feel you will be able to make a decision on moving to the development phase of the scheme.

The Feasibility Study is the key document of reference for me at the moment. It is clear from this that there are a few open aspects that need to be resolved, such as managing domestic and large industrial customers. Equally I can see from the Feasibility Study that the main factor to keep the costs low is that the Northern Ireland scheme mirrors the requirements of the GB RHI.

I assume that you would remain content with this arrangement.

As I understand has been discussed, should you decide to proceed, I will take 3-4 weeks to set the team up around me and then we will start development, which will take four months. Looking at the calendar, I should flag that the delay in starting development does mean that some of the internal Ofgem efficiencies we flagged in the Feasibility Study, such as linking with the planned Summer IT system testing and upgrades for the GB scheme, may not now work from a timing perspective, which in turn has implications for your costs. . More generally, deviations from the proposed model will impact on the preliminary budget we have proposed.

Of course, the statutory legislation will signify compatibility with the GB RHI and clarify your stance around the other issues raised in the Feasibility Study. If you were able to share a draft of the legislation that would be extremely useful, and by the same token I am happy to offer comments on the implications for the development and operational impacts of the scheme.

I hope that this is helpful. I should clarify that I am your first point of contact at this time and I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to discuss any of these issues with me.

Regards

Keith

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