

**From:** [Weir, Darren](#)  
**To:** [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#); [McCoy, Laura](#)  
**Cc:** [Caldwell, Alison](#); [Sewell, Julie](#); [Wilson, Lucia](#); [Farrell, Elaine](#); [Barry, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence from the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee dated 11 November 2016  
**Date:** 11 November 2016 13:49:06  
**Attachments:** [Follow up letter to Andrew McCormick following meeting on 7 November 2016.docx](#)

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Andrew, please see attached correspondence from the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee following the evidence session on Wednesday, 9 November 2016, for your information.

Regards,  
Darren

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**DARREN WEIR**

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**Northern Ireland  
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**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

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11 November 2016

Dear Andrew

Following your attendance at the Committee's evidence session on 9 November 2016, you agreed to provide further information on a range of issues relevant to the Inquiry into the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme. These are listed below:

- An analysis of issues, including costs, which were generated following the spike in applications to the RHI Scheme;
- Confirmation or otherwise that it is common practice in the Department to appoint an SRO to a project/scheme and at what value is it considered that an SRO is required;
- A clear explanation of what drove the spike in applications to the scheme;
- Clarification around the aspect of the level of inspections; is it 3% of applications or, as stated by OFGEM, is it the cost of inspection against the cost of the scheme;
- Clarification that the OFGEM Feasibility Study specified that there was a potential risk from a tiered tariff;
- Figures for the payments suspended by OFGEM in light of the PWC report;
- Detail around the type of problems which arose during the random site inspections which didn't result in a penalty or action;
- Minutes of the meeting from the DETI Casework Committee that approved the Business Case and the names of the officials who sat on this committee;

- Copies of routine correspondence from the London Ministers to devolved administrations providing updates;
- Clarification on the issues highlighted during the evidence session on interest free loans from Invest NI, the number of applications that were made for Carbon Trust loans; and how the loan scheme was administered and did it work in tandem with the RHI Scheme; did Invest NI work with OFGEM;
- Why did the Department change the arrangements in October 2014 to bring back the de minimis rules aspect; an analysis of the “high level” discussions which took place regarding this change to the arrangements and the potential for a clash with de minimis; and
- How was the interest free loan devised and by whom?

Please respond by noon 23 November 2016 to the email address above.

As advised at the meeting, the Committee agrees that it may be necessary for you to attend further evidence sessions. I will write to you in due course to confirm the date.

Yours sincerely



**Robin Swann**  
**Chairperson**  
**Public Accounts Committee**

**cc Treasury Officer of Accounts**