

**From:** Kerr, Sean  
**Sent:** 30 January 2017 11:47  
**To:** Gepp, Brian  
**Subject:** FW: letter

Brian

Please prepare in final format with electronic signature. Letter can then be issued.

Thanks

**Seán Kerr**  
Private Secretary to Máirtín Ó Muilleoir  
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**From:** Rooney, Eoin  
**Sent:** 30 January 2017 11:42  
**To:** Kerr, Sean  
**Subject:** letter

Dear Simon,

As you aware, on 25 January, I signed off on my department's approval of the business plan from the Department of the Economy to address the deficiencies in the RHI scheme.

You will know that I did so reluctantly and only after receiving additional assurances from my officials, after consultation with your department, around the issues of State Aid and the planned new inspection regime.

Ultimately, of course, the delay by your Department in bringing forward a comprehensive solution to stop the RHI losses sooner meant that your interim solution was the only proposal on the table. However, I do wish to underline again my concerns in relation to the reliance on State Aid permissions before this solution can be triggered. Question marks remain over whether this State Aid condition can be fulfilled by the 1 April, the date suggested for the start of the new lower tariff regime. I do not share your department's confidence that these permissions will be in place as soon as they suggest (mid-March) and would urge you to significantly enhance your efforts in this regard.

Additionally, I have concerns about the ability of the Department of the Economy to expedite the commissioning of inspectors who will undertake the urgently-needed inspections of all boilers installed under the RHI scheme. I am confident a dynamic, thorough inspection regime will discourage abuse of the scheme and lead to immediate savings for the public purse. Again, I believe the Department of the Economy should double down on its work in this regard to get this new inspection regime up and running as soon as possible.

You will be aware that I made an intervention during your winding-up address to the Assembly on 23 January, emphasising my concerns in relation to both of the above matters.

Ultimately, the aim must be to stop the £85,000 daily loss to the public purse from the RHI scheme. I trust you will now address the shortcomings outlined above so that we can make the savings envisaged in this interim solution.

**Faithfully,**

**Máirtín Ó Muilleoir**