

British Broadcasting Corporation TVCA, 1st Floor, Broadcasting House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HQ
Telephone +44 (0)2890 338 973
Fax +44 (0)2890 338 591



Private and confidential

2nd December 2016

Dear Ms Hepper,

As you will know from my previous letter, BBC Spotlight is making a programme about the non-domestic renewable heat incentive.

Since I last wrote to you, another issue has come to light on which, in order to ensure that our programme is fair and balanced, we are seeking a response from you.

- 1) We understand from Dr McCormick's appearance before the Public Accounts Committee that in 2013, a whistleblower approached the Minister Arlene Foster to express concerns about RHI. We understand Mrs Foster referred the whistleblower to the department and a meeting was held with officials. Dr McCormick says that a subsequent email to the department indicates that the whistleblower felt she wasn't believed at the meeting with officials.

Were you at the meeting with the whistleblower described by Dr McCormick?

If so, what did the whistleblower tell you?

What was your response to the whistleblower?

Did you discuss the whistleblower's concerns with the Minister, Arlene Foster?

Did you discuss the whistleblower's concerns with any more senior official in the department?

What is your response to the allegation that the whistleblower felt she wasn't believed at the meeting?

I understand from the department's previous communication on your behalf that you do not feel you can make a contribution to the programme at this time. However, if you want to respond to these questions, please do so before 1700 on Monday 5th December. If you need any clarification, please contact me on Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry or email me on conor.spackman@bbc.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Conor Spackman

BBC Spotlight