

From: [Brennan, Mike](#)
To: [Morelli, Emer](#); [Scott, Michelle](#)
Subject: FW: Memo from the Finance Minister
Date: 06 January 2017 15:27:22
Attachments: [sub_0005_memo.pdf](#)

From: Gepp, Brian
Sent: 06 January 2017 15:20
To: Sterling, David; Brennan, Mike; Armstrong, Anne
Subject: FW: Memo from the Finance Minister

Please see for information

Thanks

From: Gepp, Brian
Sent: 06 January 2017 15:05
To: DfE Private Office
Subject: Memo from the Finance Minister

Please find attached a memo from Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA for the attention of Simon Hamilton MLA

Thanks

Brian

Brian Gepp
Assistant Private Secretary to Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA
Minister of Finance

Ministers Office
2nd Floor|Clare House|303 Airport Road West|Belfast|BT3 9ED

✉ email: brian.gepp@finance-ni.gov.uk

☎ telephone: **02890 816710**

📞 network: **Ext: 76710**



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadaiswww.finance-ni.gov.uk

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Tel: 028 90816711

Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: SUB/0005/2017

FROM: MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR MLA**DATE: 6 JANUARY 2017****TO: SIMON HAMILTON MLA**

Since taking up office my officials and I have repeatedly pressed the Department for the Economy to produce a concrete plan to address the devastating financial impact of the RHI scheme. It is extremely disappointing that seven months on I am yet to receive such a plan.

Although you expect to provide me with a business case proposal in the coming days you indicated that this will only propose an 'interim' measure. Let me be clear: a piecemeal approach is not sufficient.

The handling of this scheme – from the stripping out of the cost controls contained in the equivalent British legislation, through to the failure to close the scheme promptly when the threat posed by the absence of cost controls materialised – has been characterised at least by incompetence and possibly by corruption.

In this context the only solution that is acceptable to me and to the wider public is a comprehensive one that deals with all elements of this disastrous scheme. It must be a robust solution that stacks up financially and protects the public purse. It must be legally sound, and it must be future-proofed from further abuse.

As Finance Minister I will not allow the botched management of this scheme to be exacerbated by a botched solution. A stop-gap approach is a grave mistake. I urge you to bring forward a comprehensive plan.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR MLA
Minister of Finance

From: [Brennan, Mike](#)
To: [Rooney, Eoin](#)
Cc: [Morelli, Emer](#); [Scott, Michelle](#)
Subject: RE: Letter to be typed up
Date: 06 January 2017 14:49:41

Eoin

As discussed. I would just put a reservation down that we might still possibly get something from DfE that is attractive and works!

M

Dear Simon

Since taking up office my officials and I have repeatedly pressed the Department for the Economy to produce a concrete plan to address the devastating financial impact of the non domestic RHI scheme. It is extremely disappointing that seven months on I am yet to receive such a plan.

Although you have indicated that I should receive a business case proposal in the coming days, you have indicated that this will only propose an 'interim' measure. Let me be clear: A piecemeal approach is not sufficient. As was discussed yesterday legal advice etc could fundamentally undermine this proposed 'interim' approach.

The handling of this scheme – from the stripping out of the critical costs controls contained in the comparable British legislation, through to the failure to close the scheme promptly (when the threat posed by the absence of cost controls materialised) – has been characterised at least by incompetence. This absence of cost controls has also created an environment conducive to possible corruption.

In this context the only solution that is acceptable to me and, I would guess, to the wider public is a comprehensive one that deals with all elements of this disastrous scheme. It must be a robust solution which significantly improves value-for-money thus protecting the public purse. It must be legally sound. Critically it must be future-proofed from further abuse.

As Finance Minister I will not allow the botched management of this scheme to be exacerbated by a knee-jerk solution. A stop-gap approach is a grave mistake. I urge you to bring forward a comprehensive plan.

From: Rooney, Eoin
Sent: 06 January 2017 14:20
To: Brennan, Mike
Subject: FW: Letter to be typed up

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [<mailto:mairtin@newbelfast.com>]
Sent: 06 January 2017 14:19
To: Rooney, Eoin; Gepp, Brian
Subject: Re: Letter to be typed up

Made one small change by inserting a colon:

From: "Rooney, Eoin"
Date: Dé hAoine 6 Eanáir 2017 14:10
To: Brian Gepp
Cc: Mairtin O Muilleoir
Subject: Letter to be typed up

Dear Simon

Since taking up office my officials and I have repeatedly pressed the Department for the Economy to produce a concrete plan to address the devastating financial impact of the RHI scheme. It is extremely disappointing that seven months on I am yet to receive such a plan.

Although you expect to provide me with a paper in the coming period you indicated that this will only propose an 'interim' measure. Let me be clear: A piecemeal approach is not sufficient.

The handling of this scheme – from the stripping out of the costs controls contained in the British legislation, through to the failure to close the scheme promptly when the threat posed by the absence of cost controls materialised – has been characterised at least by incompetence and potentially by corruption.

In this context the only solution that is acceptable to me and to the public is a comprehensive one that deals with all elements of this disastrous scheme. It must stack up financially and protect the public purse. It must be legally sound. It must be future-proofed from further abuse.

As Finance Minister I will not allow the botched management of this scheme to be exacerbated by a botched solution. A stop-gap approach is a grave mistake. I urge you to bring forward a comprehensive plan.



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DATE: 6 JANUARY 2017

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In this context the only solution that is acceptable to me and to the wider public is a comprehensive one that deals with all elements of this disastrous scheme. It must be a robust solution that stacks up financially and protects the public purse. It must be legally sound, and it must be future-proofed from further abuse.

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Máirtín Ó Múilleoir

MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR MLA
Minister of Finance

From: [Brennan, Mike](#)
To: [Scott, Michelle](#); [Morelli, Emer](#)
Cc: [Downie, Jill](#)
Subject: FW: Letter to be typed up
Date: 06 January 2017 14:22:08

Can you call in for a quick chat on this when free

From: Rooney, Eoin
Sent: 06 January 2017 14:20
To: Brennan, Mike
Subject: FW: Letter to be typed up

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [<mailto:mairtin@newbelfast.com>]
Sent: 06 January 2017 14:19
To: Rooney, Eoin; Gepp, Brian
Subject: Re: Letter to be typed up

Made one small change by inserting a colon:

From: "Rooney, Eoin"
Date: Dé hAoine 6 Eanáir 2017 14:10
To: Brian Gepp
Cc: Mairtin O Muilleoir
Subject: Letter to be typed up

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In this context the only solution that is acceptable to me and to the public is a comprehensive one that deals with all elements of this disastrous scheme. It must stack up financially and protect the public purse. It must be legally sound. It must be future-proofed from further abuse.

As Finance Minister I will not allow the botched management of this scheme to be exacerbated by a botched solution. A stop-gap approach is a grave mistake. I urge you to bring forward a comprehensive plan.