

From the Office of the Minister



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Dear Conor

**THE DRAFT RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017**

I have asked the Speaker to reconvene the Assembly Business Committee to request that they amend the Assembly Order Paper to schedule a debate on the above draft Regulations during business on Monday 16 January.

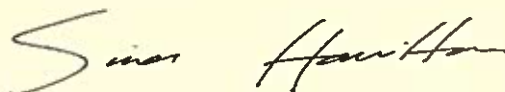
The draft Regulations have been laid before the Assembly and I have attached a copy along with the Explanatory Memorandum.

The purpose of the draft Regulations is to put in place the first stage of cost control measures to permit further consideration of longer- term cost control measures to address the project overspend on the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

My Department has submitted a Business Case to the Department of Finance on the proposed cost control measures to address the projected overspend in 2017/18. These Regulations give effect to that proposal. The proposed measures introduce a two- tier tariff structure and an annual payment cap for installations accredited before 18th November 2015 which fall within the small and medium biomass tariffs.

You will appreciate the importance of taking the draft Regulations forward as a matter of urgency. Due to very pressing timescales it has therefore not been possible to consult the Committee on the content of the draft Regulations.

Yours sincerely



SIMON HAMILTON MLA