

Andrew McCormick

From: Andrew McCormick Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Sent: 18 January, 2017 7:54 AM
To: 'Andrew McCormick'
Subject: RHI DFE SpAd

Wanted to share my thoughts so far before going to official email. No hesitation around points 1-3 and 6 below. Fourth needs thought around "not protesting too much". Care also needed re the fifth which could be mis-spun as accusatory, though in a way we are all now subject to suspicion and an Inquiry is needed to clear up as much as possible.

All needs to be thought about in case of future comparison with any other individual.

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- As part of their contract, Special Advisors are required not to misuse their official position or information to further their own private interests or those of others or to receive any benefits that might be perceived as compromising their integrity.
- Conflict of interest issues are often as much about perception as substance, and hence good practice is that anything that might be perceived as a conflict should be drawn to attention
- John Robinson's statement says that he **does not have** an interest in his father-in-law's business, but it was correct for him to draw it to attention given the potential risk of misperception of an interest
- As a matter of fact, John Robinson has not been present at the recent policy discussions in relation to changes to the RHI scheme, including the development of the Regulations that are now before the Assembly
- The Department has no evidence of any misuse of his position, but only an Inquiry could confirm that more fully
- With hindsight it might have been better had this matter been drawn to attention earlier