

From: [David Gordon](#)
To: [General](#)
Subject: Fw: See attached updated
Date: 05 May 2017 22:32:26
Attachments: [rhi.docx](#)

From: Timothy Johnston
Sent: 10 November 2016 23:03
To: John Robinson; Clive McFarland; Arlene Foster
Cc: dgordonbt Personal information redacted
by the RHI Inquiry
Subject: See attached updated

A DUP spokesman said, " The failings of the RHI scheme are currently the subject of a live PAC investigation. The problems associated with this scheme have been acknowledged as shocking. The Minister for the Economy, Simon Hamilton issued a detailed statement on this on 4th July (see below)

There were systemic failures in the administration of the RHI scheme. It is rightly a matter being investigated by the Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee.

Whether it was the absence of tiered tariffs or controls on costs, at various stages of the scheme there were serious failings and opportunities were missed to remediate the situation by those directly responsible for administering the scheme.

Concern was raised about potential abuse of the scheme with the then DETI Minister Arlene Foster MLA by an external source to the department. She took appropriate action and directed the complainant to officials. During PAC evidence the Permanent Secretary indicated to the PAC that Mrs Foster's actions were entirely appropriate and the BBC reported this.

Given the ongoing investigations and potential for legal recourse it would be inappropriate to comment further on the detail of the various investigations."

Previous statement

4th July 2016

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Commenting Simon Hamilton said,

“At the outset I thank the Audit Office for their work to date on what are extremely serious issues. The Audit Office's findings in respect of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI) are deeply shocking and

catalogue multiple failings in the design and administration of this scheme. The potential ongoing costs of this scheme to Northern Ireland taxpayers are incredible and the accusations of fraud will be rigorously investigated.

Whether it is the absence of tiered tariffs or controls on costs, at various stages of the scheme there were serious systemic failings and opportunities were missed to remediate the situation by those directly responsible for administering the scheme.

Since becoming Economy Minister in late May, I have held meetings with senior officials about the RHI scheme and how things reached the point of it being over-budget. On foot of these discussions, external consultants are already being appointed to conduct on-the-spot and thorough inspections of installations to ensure they meet the spirit and letter of the scheme. While the policy purpose of the scheme was well founded, aimed at increasing our use of renewable technology, there will be no toleration of fraud and where it is identified it will be firmly dealt with. In addition, we are already actively considering options as to how the costs of the scheme could be controlled in the future. All options will be considered to determine whether future liabilities to the public purse can be minimized.

I take the issues raised by the Audit Office extremely seriously and I have instructed departmental officials to work through the range of serious issues raised. Lessons must be learned for the future to ensure this type of situation never arises again".