

**John McBurney Solicitors**

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**From:** Solar Trade Association [sdunlop@solar-trade.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 15 February 2016 18:01  
**To:** mervynstoreymia@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive in Northern Ireland - vote in assembly tomorrow

Dear Mr Storey,

I am getting in touch on behalf of the Solar Trade Association, which represents the solar PV and solar thermal hot water heating industries in the UK.

We are extremely concerned by the proposal to close the Northern Irish Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) without any prior consultation.

We understand there is going to be a vote tomorrow on this issue in the Northern Ireland Assembly, and we urge Members of the Legislative Assembly to oppose this move.

The Renewable Heat Incentive supports a whole range of technologies, including solar thermal hot water heating.

Solar thermal is particularly important for tackling fuel poverty, as it is relatively cheap, has near zero running costs and works well in dense urban areas with small roof spaces. As it is hot water it also delivers carbon savings in homes with low levels of fabric energy efficiency – it is a green heat technology that does not depend on a large, highly energy efficient home.

The UK needs urgently to improve its performance on renewable heat which accounts for one third of UK carbon emissions. In 2014 renewable heat provided 4.8% of the UK's heating needs, leaving a mountain to climb to reach the UK's notional renewable heat target of 12% by 2020.

This is also a Made in Britain technology, with major businesses like CoolSky Ltd based in Northern Ireland.

We urge Northern Ireland to retain support for solar thermal.

Kind regards,

Sonia Dunlop

Sonia Dunlop

Communications Officer

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