

Our Ref: SD/2/16/KA/ES/JG

Tel: 028 41769900

Mr Jonathan Bell MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Private Office
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4

11 February 2016

Dear Minister

I have been contacted by Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry, Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

This couple are building a house and entered into a £29,700 contract to install renewable energy. They made this decision based on receiving RHI amounting to £6,950 through the scheme.

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry are concerned that the above scheme is being cut at short notice without consultation or mechanism in place for those already who have already signed contracts.

It will take Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry 6 to 8 weeks to commission their new heating scheme so they cannot meet the very tight deadline set by the Department.

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry have suggested that exceptions should be made for those who can prove that they have signed legally binding contracts to install renewable heating systems.

Could you please consider the above suggestion?

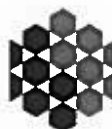
Yours sincerely

Jim Wells MLA
(Assemblyman for South Down)

10/3/2016 J.M.

IND-16508

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Your Ref: SD/2/16/KA/ES/JG
Our Ref: DETI COR 0062/2016

Jim Wells MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

29th
29 February 2016

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2016 in relation to the proposed closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and how it might impact on Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Increased demand for both RHI schemes, together with reductions in available funding means the available budget for new applications has been exhausted. To meet RHI commitments for existing installations, significant levels of additional funding will have to be found from within the NI Executive's budget for the next five years to address the current deficit. Additional funding was sought but could not be secured from Treasury. In the circumstances I have no choice but to close both RHI schemes. Following approval of the legislation by the Assembly on the 15 February 2016, I will publish a Notice to close both RHI schemes from 29 February 2016. Any renewable heating systems installed, commissioned and applied for on or before this date will be eligible for RHI payments.

I must emphasise that this is not a decision that I have taken lightly. I recognise the impact that this will have on homeowners such as Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry who will not be able to complete their installations on time. However, my immediate priority is to prevent further financial pressures in the short term. Once this is achieved I will consider wider proposals on the scheme's long term future.

I still believe that the renewable sector can play a part in helping to reduce our CO2 emissions and bring investment to our economy. I am therefore open to suggestions on how we might engage with developers and installers and others to see where we might go in the future on renewable heat. This might involve consulting on the long term position, looking at developments in other jurisdictions or considering options.

Yours sincerely

JONATHAN BELL MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Andrew McCormick



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James Wells MLA
12 Bridge Street
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31 May 2017

Dear Jim

Thank you for your letters dated 25 April on behalf of Charles Ivan McCullough who highlighted his concerns to you that the recent tariff changes on the non-domestic RHI scheme will have a disproportionate impact on the owners of smaller biomass boilers. Mr McCullough also wrote to the Department to highlight his concerns on these issues and received a response on 28 April 2017.

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 are a temporary cost control measure, which will cease to have effect on 31 March 2018. However, Mr McCullough's primary concern is that the temporary measures adopted to limit the Scheme expenditure will have a greater impact on those participants who own smaller biomass boilers. As you know, those measures were introduced and agreed as a matter of urgency in advance of the Assembly's dissolution on 26 January. There was not the opportunity, given the immediate context at that time, to carry out a full review of the policy and a consultation exercise that would be required to design more permanent corrections to the Scheme.

However, the Department still intends to review the scheme and consult on the longer-term structure of cost control measures for the remainder of the scheme, prior to their introduction. The temporary Regulations that are now in place will then be replaced by more developed cost controls. The Department would welcome views on those proposals when the consultation on the future of the RHI Scheme has been launched. Mr McCullough's feedback has already been highlighted to the RHI Taskforce, the team in my Department responsible for resolving the issues in the RHI Scheme. I have asked them to consider the proportionality of any proposed cost controls, alongside other policy issues, in the development of new Scheme Regulations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew McCormick'.

ANDREW McCORMICK
Permanent Secretary