

Re: Renewable Heat Incentive Debate

andrew crawford

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Sent: 12 February 2016 13:13

To: Arlene Foster [arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk]

Cc: Timothy Johnston

Spoke to his crowd. Don't think we will be holding a party function in the centre

Sent from my iPad

On 11 Feb 2016, at 21:57, Arlene Foster <arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk> wrote:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "aisling@torrentcomplex.co.uk" <aislingmcelhone@torrentcomplex.co.uk>
Date: 11 February 2016 at 13:02:43 GMT
To: arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk, office@arlenefoster.org.uk
Subject: **RE: Renewable Heat Incentive Debate**

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the RHI Inquiry

Dear Arlene

I represent Donaghmore District Community Association (outside Dungannon) who manage the rural community hub called Torrent Complex. www.torrentcomplex.co.uk.

Our annual footfall is 250,000 - more than most of our council ran facilities in Mid Ulster Council area. Our demographic is massive. We have pre-birth to post life projects and everything in between for all ages. The NI disabled Basketball team use our site for training. We are fully inclusive and provide a much needed service to our rural community, surrounding hinterland as well as the wider province for disabled sports.

The council invest £2,500 annually for core costs - this is a tiny drop in the ocean of costs. Every conference I attend they are targeting the 3rd sector will pick up the slack from where there budget cuts are reducing services - how can we do this without financial investment?

In March 2015 when the RHI was launched, as a community and voluntary organisation we saw an opportunity to both help the environment as well as establishing a sustainable small financial annual income for our community that we can reinvest to support our growing responsibilities. Strategically we worked as a community to fund the purchase of the equipment and expensive enabling works on site. As a community/ voluntary organisation supporting over 26 other smaller community groups an a vast footfall with no funding support from any government department or agency, this was not an easy task. We successfully applied to the Carbon Trust for a loan to help us which is valid until March 31st which coincided with the projected closure date for the Renewable Heat Incentive.

We are appalled that DETI can decide over night to disband the RHI - where is the exit strategy in this, why are they not honouring the March 31st date they set? Our community had to work strategically to enable this project adhering to

the projected closure date.

Who will reimburse our expenses - non refundable deposit for equipment, site works including expensive shuttering? Time spent on applications to the Carbon Trust, design time for the site works?

The future responsibilities laid on communities like ourselves - will there be annual funding to enable us to undertake these from the various Departments?

We made a conscious commitment to the future sustainability to our community and users to evolve along with demands we face and the annual RHI was earmarked to allow us to do this.

We are not the stereotypical Wood Pellet user that the press and DETI have referred to. The Assembly cannot forget about us and the repercussions of the decision they make on Monday at the debate to groups like us.

I can't literate my anger and disbelief

I can only hope that common sense prevails on Monday and the 31st March deadline is reinstated. If there is any further information you require my details are below.

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Kind Regards

Aisling Brady

TVI Community Development Manager

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the RHI Inquiry