

**Re: Update and urgent follow up questions**

Timothy Johnston

Sent: 18 January 2017 07:05

To: andrew crawford [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
Cc: Clive McFarland; Richard Bullick email redacted by the RHI Inquiry; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson

Just picking up on this. Andrews amendment is sensible.

Sent from my iPhone

On 18 Jan 2017, at 06:03, andrew crawford <[Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]> wrote:

Folks,

Is Andrew McCormick going to make a statement/comment this morning? It's bad enough JB making allegations against all but if AMcC makes comments against me I will be in a very difficult position. You are already aware of my views about the statement from Arlene in December

I'm not happy that I'm been accused of keeping the scheme open when on an email to Tim Cairns on the 31 July I started, "I think that you will need to make changes from the 1st October as the system has no upper limit to the amount of support."

See below an amendment to my comment, what are your views?

For the sake of completeness Andrew Crawford denies that at any time did he seek to delay the introduction of cost control measures. To the contrary, in July 2015 Andrew Crawford suggested to the then DETI advisor, Timothy Cairns, that changes to the scheme should be introduced from the 1 October 2015.

I would appreciate help and assistance with this issue.

Andrew

Sent from my iPad

On 18 Jan 2017, at 01:10, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

Arlene / Andrew

See below drafted by Richard on Nolan show questions.

Clive

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

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**From:** Richard Bullick [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]  
**Sent:** 17 January 2017 23:41  
**To:** John Robinson  
**Cc:** Clive McFarland; Simon Hamilton; Timothy Johnston  
**Subject:** Re: Update and urgent follow up questions

What about this - we would need to run past AF, AMc and AC

In the Assembly on 19 December Arlene Foster stated,

The former Enterprise Minister claims that he made a decision to amend the RHI scheme but was overruled by special advisers. Since last week, I have specifically investigated this claim. The evidence is clear. The only decision taken by the Minister was in early September to amend the scheme in November. The Minister was not subsequently overruled by special advisers, and I am clear that whatever representations may have been made by anyone on this issue, it was not being done with the authority of the party.

I understand from Minister Hamilton that the permanent secretary recalls being told at the time that some in the party wanted the scheme to be kept open. He was unaware of the source of this suggestion, but believes it may have been based on the erroneous but widespread view at the time that because the scheme was funded through annually managed expenditure (AME), it was possible to maximise take-up without creating a problem.

Arlene Foster understands that Mr McCormick was not aware of who it was alleged wanted the scheme kept open.

For the sake of completeness Mr Crawford denies that at any time did he seek to delay the introduction of cost control measures.

On 17 Jan 2017, at 23:24, John Robinson  
<[johnrobinson@dup.org.uk](mailto:johnrobinson@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

Has Richard and Tim seen these?

John Robinson | [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

On 17 Jan 2017, at 23:16, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

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**From:** David O'Dornan [[David.ODornan@bbc.co.uk](mailto:David.ODornan@bbc.co.uk)]

**Sent:** 17 January 2017 23:15

**To:** Clive McFarland

**Subject:** Update and urgent follow up questions

Clive,

I can confirm we intend to run with this in the morning.

Can you respond to these follow up questions for 9am please. Apologies for the time but they are obviously in response to your email half an hour ago.

1.

Before she made her speech to the assembly on 19 December 2016, was Arlene Foster aware that it was **Dr McCormick's understanding that a DUP Special Advisor who was not the then DETI special advisor was involved in the summer of 2015 around preventing the introduction of cost controls for the non-domestic RHI scheme ?**

2.

**Was this special advisor named by Dr.McCormick to be Andrew Crawford ?**

3.

**If it wasn't Dr Crawford who was it?**

**A response by 9am if not sooner is appreciated,  
thanks David**

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Jan 2017, at 22:37, David O'Dornan

Thanks for this Clive - can let you know what we are running with in the morning.

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Jan 2017, at 22:09, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

David,  
Apologies for the lateness - things are obviously incredibly busy.

I will follow up with a response on the Irish Language Act stuff too. Would be useful to know what if any of these things the show intends to run with.

Clive

Statement from Simon Hamilton  
MLA and John Robinson.

**"Prior to the 15 December when the BBC broadcast allegations of the involvement of DUP Special Advisers in preventing the introduction of cost controls for the non-domestic RHI scheme, Dr McCormick had not informed us of the name of any DUP Special Advisor that he believed to be seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter.**

**Since the allegations aired on the 15 December, Dr McCormick has subsequently informed us that it was his understanding that a DUP Special Advisor who was not the then DETI Special Advisor was involved in the summer of 2015 but that he had no evidence to substantiate this."**

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

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**From:** David O'Dornan

[[David.ODornan@bbc.co.uk](mailto:David.ODornan@bbc.co.uk)]

**Sent:** 17 January 2017 12:05

**To:** Clive McFarland

**Subject:** Urgent questions for  
DUP members

Dear Clive,

Simon Hamilton has called for transparency around RHI, as has your party leader Arlene Foster.

Indeed, yesterday at Stormont he reiterated that he had been consistent in saying "the truth of what went wrong with the scheme should be revealed". He also added he wanted to see the maximum amount of confidence given to the public and that he wants "to see the truth come out".

With this in mind, can you answer the following questions:

**SIMON HAMILTON**

1. Did Andrew McCormick tell you that a DUP Special Adviser (Spad) had advised or influenced that the lucrative part of the RHI scheme be kept open?

2. Did Andrew McCormick provide a name as to who this DUP Spad might be?

**JOHN ROBINSON**

1. Did Andrew McCormick tell you that a DUP Special Adviser (Spad) had advised or influenced that the lucrative part of the RHI scheme be kept open?

2. Did Andrew McCormick  
provide a name as to who this  
DUP Spad might be?

Please confirm receipt of this  
email. Please respond with  
answers to these questions by  
5pm today.

Kind regards,

David

David O'Dornan  
Editor  
The Stephen Nolan Show  
BBC Radio Ulster  
Tel: 028 90338671  
Mob: Personal information redacted  
by the RHI Inquiry

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**Re: Clean version**

John Robinson

**Sent:** 18 January 2017 08:18**To:** Richard Bullick [richardbullick@dup.org.uk] Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry**Cc:** Timothy Johnston; Simon Hamilton

1. I don't know whats in it.

2. Yes, but that's where he says he will demonstrate the evidence to inquiry. JB hasn't published anything.

John Robinson Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 18 Jan 2017, at 08:16, Richard Bullick <[richardbullick@dup.org.uk](mailto:richardbullick@dup.org.uk)> Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry wrote:

Re ac bit 2 points

1. The rest of the email is less helpful
2. Will there not be a demand to produce it now?

R

Sent from my iPhone

On 18 Jan 2017, at 08:00, John Robinson <[johnrobinson@dup.org.uk](mailto:johnrobinson@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

Any thoughts?

J

In the Assembly on 19 December Arlene Foster stated,

*"The former Enterprise Minister claims that he made a decision to amend the RHI scheme but was overruled by special advisers. Since last week, I have specifically investigated this claim. The evidence is clear. The only decision taken by the Minister was in early September to amend the scheme in November. The Minister was not subsequently overruled by special advisers, and I am clear that whatever representations may have been made by anyone on this issue, it was not being done with the authority of the party.*

*I understand from Minister Hamilton that the permanent secretary recalls being told at the time that some in the party wanted the scheme to be kept open. He was unaware of the source of this suggestion, but believes it may have been based on the erroneous but widespread view at the time that because the scheme was funded through annually managed expenditure (AME), it was possible to maximise take-up without creating a problem."*

Arlene Foster understands that Mr McCormick had no evidence about who it was alleged wanted the scheme kept open.

Dr Andrew Crawford denies seeking to delay the introduction of cost control

IND-29507  
measures. Having been asked his opinion in July 2015, Dr Andrew Crawford urged that changes to the Scheme should be introduced from the 1 October 2015. Dr Crawford will make indisputable evidence available to any inquiry which will corroborate this.

John Robinson |

Personal information redacted  
by the RHI Inquiry