

From: **DUP Press Office** [pressoffice@dup.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@dup.org.uk)   
Subject: Statement from the Democratic Unionist Party  
Date: 14 December 2016 at 12:25  
To:

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**Statement from the Democratic Unionist Party**

A DUP Spokesperson said

**"The decision to control costs through the introduction of tiering was taken by the responsible Minister, the Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on 2 September 2015. That decision was to take effect from 4 November 2015. No DUP Special Advisor or any other individuals from the then Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister sought to prevent the 'closure of the original scheme'.**

**For the avoidance of any doubt, no one at the then OFMDFM sought to delay the closure of the scheme.**

**Indeed, the date from which the scheme was to be amended and terms of any such amendment of the scheme were a matter for the responsible Minister. In the event the scheme did not close until 18 November due a delay in securing financial and legal approvals.**

**In relation to the subsequent closure of the scheme in February 2016 following representations, including those from other political parties, the Minister for the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment decided to extend the tiered scheme for a further two weeks. This decision was publicised and explained at the time as were the criticism of the Minister for the original proposed timing of the closure.**

**As the Enterprise Minister made clear at the time the First Minister and deputy First Minister supported this decision in light of the concerns expressed at the time and the fact that cost controls had already been introduced from November 2015. Civil Servants expressed no objection to the two week extension in light of the legal dangers of the lack of adequate notification period.**

**It should of course be noted that despite the extension of the scheme for a further two weeks the opposition parties nonetheless still voted against the closure."**

Commenting on a story in today's Irish News the spokesperson continued:

**"The story on the front page of today's Irish News is also erroneous. The decision to introduce cost controls to the non domestic scheme from 4 November 2015 was taken by the DETI Minister on 2 September 2015. This was first dealt with by the ETI committee on 8 September 201. It was then put back from 4 to 17 November due a delay in securing legal and financial approvals."**

Concluding, they added:

**"Further comment will be made later today."**

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DUP Press Office  
91 Dundela Avenue  
Belfast  
BT4 3BU

T: 02890 654479 | E: [pressoffice@dup.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@dup.org.uk)  
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