



From: Richard Bullick [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
 Subject: Re:
 Date: 13 December 2016 at 20:58
 To: Arlene Foster arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk
 Cc: Timothy Johnston timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk, John Robinson johnrobinson@dup.org.uk, Simon Hamilton simonhamilton@dup.org.uk

Minister Bell, 15/2/16 on additional two weeks
 (Other parties pushed for longer)

'The period since I announced my intention to close the schemes on 5 February gives those who are in the process of installing renewable heat equipment the month of February, effectively, to complete installation before the scheme closes. That reflects a reasonable balance between the need to manage scheme expenditure and giving those who are in the process of installation time to make decisions on whether to proceed. I have listened to the concerns raised about immediate closure of the scheme: that is why, with the agreement of the First Minister and deputy Minister, I have decided to defer closure for a further two weeks.'

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2016-02-15.6.20>

On 13 Dec 2016, at 20:57, Arlene Foster <arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk> wrote:

Why are we not saying no I didn't.

Sent from my iPad

On 13 Dec 2016, at 20:14, Richard Bullick [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] wrote:

Did Arlene Foster as First Minister ask for an extension to the tiered non-domestic RHI scheme when senior civil servants had asked for it to be closed in early 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.

<http://www.mydup.com/news/article/bell-announces-extension-to-rhi-closure-date>

<http://uup.org/news/4093/21/Minister-s-latest-renewables-decision-puts-jobs-at-risk-Cochrane-Watson#.WFBTtlfPxsN>

The 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. 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.

On 13 Dec 2016, at 20:00, Richard Bullick Personal information redacted
by the RHI Inquiry wrote:

Did any DUP special advisers or any individuals from the then Office of First and Deputy First Minister act to try to delay or prevent the closure of the original version of the non-domestic RHI scheme in the months leading up to November 17th 2015?

A decision to 'close the original scheme' or, more accurately, to amend the original scheme 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'. Indeed, the date from which the scheme was to be amended and terms of any such amendment of the scheme were entirely 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.

From: **Richard Bullick** Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry 
Subject: latest draft
Date: 13 December 2016 at 20:57
To: **Timothy Johnston** timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk, **John Robinson** johnrobinson@dup.org.uk, **Simon Hamilton** simonhamilton@dup.org.uk
Cc: **Ariene Isobel Fiater** arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk



SN reply 1.docx

amc wonders if this will send JB over the edge - if he is not already there ..

we can discuss further at 10