

From: **Richard Bullick** rjb@dup.org.uk
 Subject: **Re: Nesbitt & his smoking gun**
 Date: **13 December 2016 at 15:18**
 To: **John Robinson** johnrobinson@dup.org.uk
 Cc: **Clive McFarland** clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk, **Timothy Johnston** timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk, **Simon Hamilton** simonhamilton@dup.org.uk, **David Gordon** email redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Is inexplicably a bit strong? It could be omitted

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2016, at 15:03, John Robinson <johnrobinson@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Don't see any problem with Clive's line.

Another line for consideration. Andrew McC described this as factual but "putting the boot in".

The prioritisation of the Domestic RHI scheme was based on the information and advice available to Mrs Foster at that time. Despite having information from the Whistleblower, inexplicably officials had not escalated the concerns about the non-domestic scheme.

Background

In 2013, DETI consulted on the proposals for a Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, and on some aspects of the Non-Domestic scheme, including an approach to budget management. AF asked that the work on the introduction of the domestic scheme should receive priority, but in the relevant period (from the close of consultation in October 2013 through to early 2015), officials did not raise any concern that this would lead to risks in relation to the absence of cost controls in the Non-Domestic scheme. So while the 2013 consultation paper referred to an intention to introduce cost controls, this was not put forward to the Minister as a recommendation for action until July 2015, in a submission to Minister Bell.

John Robinson Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 13 Dec 2016, at 14:19, Richard Bullick <rjb@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Don't see a downside unless there is a better platform on Which to use them

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2016, at 14:11, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Thoughts on throwing in Cochraine-Watson's comments? Gregory or christopher to field?

Mike Nesbitt's claim to have a 'smoking gun' in relation to the renewable heat scheme demonstrates he is more interested in chasing headlines than chasing the truth.

The comments Mr Nesbitt refers to were made at a committee meeting over ten months ago. Notably a few short weeks after this 'smoking gun' was first uncovered Mike Nesbitt and his colleagues voted against the closure of the renewable heat scheme. This was despite being told that opposing its closure would be to support an "open ended commitment to fund renewable heat, no matter what the cost".