

Re: Donors and boycott, the News LetterNigel Dodds [doddsna@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

Sent: 01 January 2017 16:24

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

Cc: John Robinson; Richard Bullick [richardbullick@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] Clive McFarland; Simon Hamilton; Nigel Dodds [doddsn@parliament.uk]

Yes statement is ok

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Jan 2017, at 15:58, Arlene Foster <arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk> wrote:

Content with statement as drafted

Sent from my iPad

On 1 Jan 2017, at 15:50, John Robinson <johnrobinson@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Yes, I agree with RB. Also copied Nigel in for his thoughts.

John Robinson [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

On 1 Jan 2017, at 15:42, Richard Bullick <richardbullick@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry> wrote:

Fair point but when rhi names are published I suspect not a single one will be a dup donor in the terms of the electoral commission

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Jan 2017, at 15:04, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

If we get into details about how many or few donations we have had it heads down the road of - well why don't you just publish them voluntarily does it not?

Unless we have an intention of doing that anyway maybe keep it general.

On the tweet - it did have #boycott in it and we were very loudly critical of the stuff in Londonderry with the Council calling for the boycott of a newspaper etc etc.

Draft below for thoughts.

A DUP Spokesman said, "The DUP is not privy to the list of applicants to the RHI scheme. The Department for the Economy has written to all successful applicants seeking their consent to publish details. We hope that all those who receive such letters will respond positively and would expect that people who support

all political parties and none would be included within it.

The party is clear in its support for the introduction of a donations regime as exists in the rest of the UK. It is easier for political opponents however to engage in baseless innuendo rather than work to resolve the real issues around the RHI scheme."

On a tweet posted the spokesman continued "The views posted on twitter by one individual do not represent the party's position. People should make their own decisions about how they receive their news."

Clive McFarland
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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From: John Robinson

Sent: 01 January 2017 14:54

To: Richard Bullick

Cc: Clive McFarland; Simon Hamilton; Arlene Foster

Subject: Re: Donors and boycott, the News Letter

Check with Allan for donors over £500 - can't be that many. Think Simon's answer may be simplest if there are a large number.

Boycot - beauty of our democracy is that people are free to buy or not buy whatever newspaper they wish. It is not a concern of the party how people wish to spend their money or receive their news.

John Robinson |

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 1 Jan 2017, at 14:45, Richard Bullick

<[Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry">richardbullick@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry](mailto:richardbullick@ wrote:

On the boycott issue - did anyone actually call for a boycott?

If not is that not the simplest answer- we can't be at war with everyone.

Do we actually have a list anywhere of 'dup donors' who give more than a minimal amount?

Electoral commission defines donations as being over £500

Presumably Alan can tell us everyone who has given over 500 in last few years?

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Jan 2017, at 14:29, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

On the donors issue I presume we just reply that we don't know who is on the list of RHI applicants.

Last query on this area I'd sent him the line from the last manifesto about moving in line with the rest of the UK.

If/when the list is published there will be another run out for this issue.

On the other - another story from a tweet. Any thoughts on a line?

Sent from my iphone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Adam Kula
<adam.kula@jpress.co.uk>
Date: 1 January 2017 at
14:23:37 GMT
To: Clive McFarland
<clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk>,
DUP Press Office
<pressoffice@dup.org.uk>
Subject: Donors and
boycott, the News
Letter

Hi Clive,

Two things if I may.

First is that the Alliance

Party leader has sent us a statement in which she demands to know whether any DUP donors have benefited from the RHI scheme having been kept open. She notes that the DUP has not voluntarily published its lists of donors (I'd asked you about this the other day, but didn't receive an answer). She notes that some DUP-connected people have been said to be benefiting from RHI, and wants to know "who stood to gain from the flaws in the scheme and the failure to address them at the earliest possible point". Do you wish to offer any response?

Secondly, I also note that a DUP parliamentary aide has called for a News Letter boycott - see

here: <https://twitter.com/brianhaslett93/status/815161386405916672?lang=en-gb>

This tweet has been liked by a number of DUP people - including two MLAs.

Can you tell us - what is the party's stance on this? Does the DUP as a party endorse this message about the News Letter and the call for a boycott?

Am writing for tomorrow, so if you are able to get us a response to either or both as soon as possible - by about 6.30pm if you're able - that'd be great.

Happy new year, and
best wishes.

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