

**Monday essentials**

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Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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Simon Hamilton; John

Monday morning represents your best chance - maybe your last best chance - to turn things round.

The most damning Bell allegation was that documents were "cleansed" to hide AF's involvement in RHI. That's what made the headlines. That's what implied cover up and corruption; and seemingly tied AF into the unfolding RHI disaster in the second half of 2015.

Senior civil servants Andrew McCormick and Chris Stewart were named by Bell.

As I understand it, they can provide a factual account of what actually happened with the documentation. I believe work has started on that. It needs to be done, signed off and ready to announce Monday morning, preferably before Monday's statement, and certainly to be provided to DFM (Economy Minister can presumably have commissioned the report)

**THIS IS THE GAME CHANGER FOR MONDAY**

Turns out there was no document altering by OFMDFM officials. Turns out the department and FM have no case to answer. Indeed the facts show FM and DFM intervened to bring forward the closure of RHI - make it earlier than the date Bell had agreed

Here are the facts as detailed by Andrew McCormick:

There was one attempt in early 2016 to redraft a Government document - by Mr Bell's spad. And what was that about? The document had recorded that OFMDFM stepped in to secure earlier closure of RHI. Mr Bell's spad sought to remove reference in the document to OFMDFM's intervention.

That's it. That's the great Bell conspiracy theory

An attempted deletion of an intervention in the public interest by FM and DFM. And it had nothing to do with the 2015 RHI fiasco - the spike in RHI demand Bell allowed to happen, the spike that bust the bank

The facts are now in the public domain. The documents too. This isn't FM's verdict. The report is by Andrew McCormick - described by Jonathan Bell as "a man of the utmost integrity and one of the finest servants of the Civil Service that the public could ask for"

Cue demands for apologies from Bell, Nolan and the BBC; Bell's credibility shattered.

Monday morning's headlines should be: 'Foster cleared on Bell allegation' and 'RHI inquiry set up'

And that should be out there before FM gets to her feet to give her statement