

RE: Unfair removal of RHI scheme

Dunne, Gordon

Tue 2/16/2016 7:55 PM

Sent Items

To: Helen Palmer <info@steppingstonetimberproducts.com>;

Helen

Many thanks for your information on the Closure of RHI Scheme.

Regards

Gordon.

Gordon Dunne MLA
North Down
GordonDunne.org
T: 90423322

8 Church Road
Holywood
BT18 0PU.

From: Helen Palmer [mailto:info@steppingstonetimberproducts.com]

Sent: 15 February 2016 11:04

To: Agnew, Steven; Allen, Andy; info@jimallister.org; Anderson, Sydney; attwoodalex@yahoo.co.uk; Beggs, Roy; Bell, Jonathan; Boylan, Cathal; Boyle, Michaela; Bradley, Dominic; Bradley, Paula; Cameron, Pam; Buchanan, Thomas; Campbell, Gregory; Clarke, Trevor; Cochrane, Judith; Cochrane-Watson, Adrian; Craig, Jonathan; jonathan.craig@laganvalleydup.co.uk; Cree, Leslie; Dallat, John; Dickson, Stewart; Diver, Gerard; Dobson, Jo-Anne; Douglas, Sammy; Dunne, Gordon; Durkan, Mark H.; Easton, Alex; colum.eastwood@sdlp.ie; stephen.farry@allianceparty.org; Fearon, Megan; phil.flanagan1@gmail.com; southantrim@davidford.org; arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk; Frew, Paul; Gardiner, Samuel; Girvan, Paul CO; Givan, Paul; Hale, Brenda; simonhamilton@dup.org.uk; clairehanna@gmail.com; chrishazzardsf@gmail.com; Hilditch, David; Humphrey, William; Hussey, Ross; Irwin, William; Kelly, Dolores; Kelly, Gerry; danny.kennedymia@hotmail.co.uk; Lo, Anna; Lunn, Trevor; sf.lisnaskea@gmail.com; Lyons, Gordon; chris.lyttle@allianceparty.org; McAleer, Declan; McCallister, John; McCann, Fra; jennifermccann1@googlemail.com; kieran.mccarthy@allianceparty.org; foyleassembly@gmail.com; nmccausland@dup-belfast.co.uk; McCorley, Rosie; McCrea, Basil; McCrea, Ian; McCrossan, Daniel; barrymcelduffmla@gmail.com; McGahan, Bronwyn; michaelmcgimpsey@live.co.uk; patsymcglonemla@yahoo.ie; brid_curran@hotmail.com; McIlveen, David; mail@michellemcilveen.org.uk; daithimckay@btinternet.com; McKevitt, Karen; McKinney, Fearghal; McLaughlin, Maeve; southantrimsinnfein@gmail.com; oliver.mcmullan@sinn-fein.ie; davidmcnarry@btconnect.com; garvaghdup@hotmail.co.uk; a.maginness@sdlp.ie; sandebelfastsinnfein@gmail.com; Middleton, Gary; Milne, Ian; mauricemorrow@hotmail.com; stephenmoutray@btinternet.com; sfcrossmaglen@gmail.com; Nesbitt, Mike;

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Cc: helen@steppingstonetimberproducts.com

Subject: Unfair removal of RHI scheme

Importance: High

Dear MLA,

We, Steppingstone Timber Products, are a family grown and managed business based in rural Fermanagh specialising in the kiln drying of firewood for supply to mainstream retailers and distributors through England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland such as Tesco, Lidl, Aldi, Spar, Nisa, Woodies and Home Bargains.

We currently employ 30+ people directly and support many local businesses indirectly.

As part of our continued growth, we are in the process of installing 2 additional 990kw biomass boilers, these new boilers will allow us increase our drying efficiency and help maintain our competitiveness within the market place. We are currently struggling to compete with other UK based manufacturers who are receiving up to 5.6p/kwh RHI payments on similar boilers, the current Northern Ireland RHI tariffs for such boilers is 1.5p/kwh (less than 1/3 of that currently available in the UK mainland) it is our understanding that the RHI scheme shall be closed this week and the UK mainland scheme shall continue.

We are now at a stage that we have committed to the installation of 2 boilers having completed our research, focussed our business development and now placed orders for the boilers. Unfortunately, due to the size and scale of these boilers this is not something that can happen within 2-3 weeks and requires 1-2 years in preparation. We are now financially exposed, having ordered these boilers, deposits paid and committed to the associated infrastructure, we can not retain funding without the guarantee of RHI accreditation and we cannot have the boilers installed within the currently proposed RHI deadlines.

We need our MLAs to look at the changes to the RHI scheme sensibly, the current tariff for biomass boilers over 200Kw is merely an incentive, it does not insight waste and if anything it should be increased in-line with mainland UK tariffs

Yours faithfully

Richard Armstrong
Stepping Stone Timber Products

MANUFACTURER OF FSC 100%, KILN DRIED KINDLING AND FIREWOOD

Learn House, Tempo, Co Fermanagh, BT94 3HA

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by the RHI Inquiry

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RE: FMB Resposne to removal of Renewable Heat Incentive

Gavin McGuire <GavinMcGuire@fmb.org.uk>

Fri 2/19/2016 10:12 AM

To: Dunne, Gordon <gordon.dunne@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>

Hi Gordon

Many thanks for your response and consideration of this material. We were disappointed that the motion was passed on Monday night without any period of review. Thank you again for considering our view.

Kind regards
Gavin



Gavin McGuire
Director FMB Northern Ireland
Federation of Master Builders
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T 028 9446 0416 M [Redacted]
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From: Dunne, Gordon [mailto:gordon.dunne@mla.niassembly.gov.uk]
Sent: 16 February 2016 19:58
To: Gavin McGuire
Subject: RE: FMB Resposne to removal of Renewable Heat Incentive

Gavin

Thanks for the information regarding the early closure of the RHI scheme.

Regards

Gordon.

Gordon Dunne MLA
North Down
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8 Church Road
Holywood
BT18 0PU.

From: Gavin McGuire [mailto:GavinMcGuire@fmb.org.uk]
Sent: 14 February 2016 19:19
To: gk.mcq@ [Redacted]
Subject: FMB Resposne to removal of Renewable Heat Incentive

Northern Ireland
 Unit 10, Kilbegs Business Centre,
 Plasketts Close,
 Antrim, BT41 4LY
 T: 028 9446 0416
 E: fmbni@fmb.org.uk



Mr Jonathan Bell MLA
 Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
 Netherleigh
 Massey Avenue
 Belfast
 BT4 2JP

12th February 2016

Dear Minister,

Response to announcement on the removal of funding through the Renewable Heat Incentive

I am writing in response to the recent announcement by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment that there will be no further funding available through the Renewable Heat Incentive.

For information, the Federation of Master Builders is the largest trade association in the UK construction industry representing over 8,000 firms in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – more than 300 of these firms are based in Northern Ireland. Established in 1941 to protect the interests of small and medium-sized (SME) construction firms, the FMB is independent and non-profit making, lobbying for members' interests at both the national and local level.

The intention to make no further funding available through the Renewable Heat Incentive is unexpected to say the least and could have a number of very serious negative consequences for the construction industry, as well as the broader Northern Ireland economy.

For businesses of any size, but particularly for small businesses, forward planning is crucial. To suddenly withdraw what was considered a medium-term and reliable source of work for construction SMEs (and other businesses) in Northern Ireland will threaten jobs and even the businesses themselves. Indeed, many FMB members are currently undertaking jobs that are directly linked to this work and the sudden removal of the funding will leave them exposed. Yesterday's announcement that the fund will remain open until 29th February is of very little comfort to these companies, which have been heavily reliant on the scheme.

It is also important to note the likely knock-on effect this decision could have on the construction skills crisis in Northern Ireland. If affected firms are forced to shed staff due to the sudden removal of this funding, we are likely to lose more skilled workers to the UK mainland as they seek other employment opportunities elsewhere. This will only serve to purport what is already a serious construction skills shortage in the province.

It is difficult to comprehend how the funding could have become overspent to such an extent without reasonable prior warning and at some point the Department will have to answer questions regarding how the fund has been so badly mismanaged. However, for now, our industry implores you to immediately reconsider your decision to remove the funding and instead introduce a staggered approach ie a winding down period over an agreed timeframe so businesses that are affected have an opportunity to plan for the change in their revenue streams. This action is crucial if the Northern Ireland Government is serious about protecting jobs and growth.

Northern Ireland
Unit 10, Kilbegs Business Centre,
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I hope you will take seriously the above concerns. If you or your officials require any further information or would like to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin McGuire
Director FMB NI

T: 02894 460416

M: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

E: [Redacted]