
From: Sean Cudmore <seancudmore@policyforumforni.co.uk>
Sent: 11 August 2015 11:37
To: Johnston, Timothy
Subject: Policy conference on energy in Northern Ireland - speakers from DECC; Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee and Utility Regulator: Policy Forum for Northern Ireland, Morning, Thursday, 17th September 2015

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar
**Priorities for energy policy in Northern Ireland:
competition, investment and security of supply**

with

Dr Isabelle de Lovinfosse, Senior Policy Advisor, Electricity Market Reform - CfD Design and Governance, Department of Energy & Climate Change

Patsy McGlone MLA, Chair of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly

and

Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator

with presentations from:

Alan Bissett, *Arthur Cox*; **Michael Doran**, *Action Renewables*; **John French**, *Consumer Council*; **Stephen Kelly**, *Manufacturing NI*; **David Manning**, *SSE Ireland*; **Patrick McClughan**, *Gaelectric and Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group*; **Duncan McCombie**, *Energy Saving Trust*; **Robin McCormick**, *Eirgrid and SONI*; **James Orr**, *Friends of the Earth* and **Robert Wasson**, *Northern Ireland Electricity*.

Chaired by:

Steven Agnew MLA, Leader, Green Party in Northern Ireland and Member, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly and **Phil Flanagan MLA**, Deputy Chair, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly.

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 17th September 2015

Venue: Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP

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Dear Mr Johnston

I am writing to invite you to attend the above seminar. If you are not available, or you think it appropriate, do feel free to share this invitation with colleagues. Please note complimentary places are reserved for officials from the Northern Ireland Executive only.

The focus:

The future direction of policy for energy in Northern Ireland, and key priorities going forward.

To note:

Policymakers attending from the **Cabinet Office; Department for Social Development; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Department of the Environment** and **Northern Ireland Office**.

Key discussion points:

- **Competition:** consumer choice and challenges for new suppliers entering the energy market;
- **Pricing:** initiatives to reduce energy costs for domestic and business consumers, direct price regulation, and alleviating fuel poverty;
- **Renewable energy:** costs and benefits for Northern Ireland, and opportunities for solar, marine, tidal and wind energy;
- **Oil and gas:** future role of oil, likely impact of expanding the gas network to the west and issues around shale gas extraction;
- **Electricity Market Reform:** implementing the Contract for Difference (CfD) scheme in Northern Ireland;
- **Security of supply:** options for Northern Ireland and ensuring grid infrastructure is adequate to meet demand;
- **Planning Reform:** the impact that the transfer of planning powers to local government has had on planning applications for energy infrastructure, including wind farms;
- **Investment:** increasing confidence in the energy market; and
- **Generation:** next steps for cross-border electricity interconnectors.

Context:

- The third installment of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment's [Review of Electricity Policy](#) - which examines issues for investment, competition and planning and the subsequent Executive response;
- The Utility Regulator's review of the [Effectiveness of Competition in the Northern Ireland Energy Retail Market](#);
- Follows the recent publication of the DETI commissioned [review](#) of the Northern Ireland Executive's 40% renewable target; and
- The Committee for the Environment's [Inquiry into Wind Energy](#).

Speakers:

Keynotes: **Dr Isabelle de Lovinfosse**, Senior Policy Advisor, Electricity Market Reform - CfD Design and Governance, Department of Energy & Climate Change; **Patsy McGlone MLA**, Chair of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly and **Jenny Pyper**, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator.

Further confirmed speakers include: **Alan Bissett**, Partner and Head of Corporate and Commercial, Belfast, Arthur Cox; **Michael Doran**, Director, Action Renewables; **John French**, Chief Executive, Consumer Council; **Stephen Kelly**, Chief Executive Officer, Manufacturing NI; **David Manning**, Director of Corporate Affairs, SSE Ireland; **Patrick McClughan**, Head of Corporate Affairs, Gaelectric and Chair, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group; **Duncan McCombie**, Director of Operations Wales and Ireland, Energy Saving Trust; **Robin McCormick**, Director of Operations, Planning and Innovation, Eirgrid and General Manager, SONI; **James Orr**, Northern Ireland Director, Friends of the Earth and **Robert Wasson**, Asset Management Director, Northern Ireland Electricity.

Chairs: **Steven Agnew MLA**, Leader, Green Party in Northern Ireland and Member, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly and **Phil Flanagan MLA**, Deputy Chair, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly have kindly agreed to chair this seminar.

Networking:

Places have been reserved by pass-holders from the **Northern Ireland Assembly** and officials from the **Cabinet Office; Department for Social Development; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Department of the Environment; Forest Service NI; Northern Ireland Civil Service and Northern Ireland Office**. Also due to attend are representatives from **Aegis Power; Aquind; Baxi Potterton Myson; BioLumicity; British Solar Renewables; Bryson Energy; Budget Energy; Calvin Capital; Carson McDowell; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council; Causeway Coast Communities Consortium; Climote; Consumer Council; Dalcour Maclaren; Derry City and Strabane District Council; ENERCON; Environmental Efficiency; Evermore Group; Firmus Energy; Flogas Ireland; Frontier Economics; Gemserv; HgCapital; Hydroplan; Indaver Ireland; International Energy Research Centre; Lagan Construction Group; Major Energy Users Council; Mason Hayes and Curran; Michelin Tyre; Mosdorfer CCI Systems; Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Northern Ireland Electricity; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Omexom; Phoenix Natural Gas; Queen's University Belfast; RES; RPS Group; Secure Meters; Shepherd and Wedderburn; Smartgrid Ireland; SSE; The Greenyard; Tughans; Ulster Farmers Union; Ulster University; Utility Regulator and Vogt Solar**.

Agenda:

See below my signature, or click [here](#) any time to download the latest version.

Organised impartially by the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland (find out [more](#)).

CPD certified ([more details](#)).

Booking arrangements

[Online booking form](#).

Once submitted, this will be taken as a confirmed booking and will be subject to our terms and conditions.

For those who cannot attend:

- [Full transcript](#) available approximately **10 days** after the event.

I hope that you will be able to take part in what promises to be a most useful morning.

Yours sincerely

Sean

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Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar

Priorities for energy policy in Northern Ireland: competition, investment and security of supply

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 17th September 2015

Venue: Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Phil Flanagan MLA, Deputy Chair, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Priorities for energy policy in Northern Ireland**
Patsy McGlone MLA, Chair of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.05 **Competition in the energy market: electricity, gas and renewable energy**
Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 - 11.05 **The energy market: competition, consumer engagement and tackling fuel poverty**
To what extent will the expansion of the gas network to the West increase competition in that area? What steps can be taken to overcome the challenges preventing new suppliers from entering the Northern Ireland energy market such as the 'cost and complexity of the entry process' and 'lack of consumer engagement in the market', identified by the Utility Regulator in July 2014? Will the proposed reforms to the all-island Single Electricity Market result in increased competition and savings for the consumers? What measures can be taken to ensure price stability in the energy market? What are the costs and benefits of the DETI target to generate 40% of Northern Ireland's energy from renewable sources? How can it be ensured that any potential increase in energy costs following the Northern Ireland Executive's decision to continue to subsidise the building of wind farms under the Renewables Obligation for a longer period than the rest of the UK are not passed onto consumers? Should further relief be given to support manufacturing companies, which currently pay the second highest energy bills in Europe? What impact does the reliance on home heating oil (HHO), which is the primary heating source for 68 per cent of homes in Northern Ireland, have on competition in the wider energy market? How can consumer awareness of the potential benefits in switching energy supplier be improved? In what ways can the high level of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland be tackled in the short-term?
Stephen Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, Manufacturing NI
David Manning, Director of Corporate Affairs, SSE Ireland
Duncan McCombie, Director of Operations Wales and Ireland, Energy Saving Trust
John French, Chief Executive, Consumer Council
Patrick McClughan, Head of Corporate Affairs, Gaelectric and Chair, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Phil Flanagan MLA, Deputy Chair, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.10 - 11.40 Coffee
- 11.40 - 11.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Steven Agnew MLA, Leader, Green Party in Northern Ireland and Member, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.45 - 12.05 **Implementing the CfD scheme in Northern Ireland**
Dr Isabelle de Lovinfosse, Senior Policy Advisor, Electricity Market Reform - CfD Design and Governance, Department of Energy & Climate Change
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Securing supply: infrastructure, innovation and investment**
Following delays in the construction of the Tyrone to Cavan interconnector, what are the best options for securing Northern Ireland's electricity supply in the long term? What further steps need to be taken to ensure Northern Ireland has an adequate grid infrastructure to meet growing demand and support the growth in energy production? In what ways can Northern Ireland further exploit its significant potential for solar, wind, tidal and marine energy projects, as demonstrated through projects such as the SeaGen tidal energy convertor at Strangford Lough, particularly given the complex legal and environmental issues involved? What impact will the EMR's Contracts for Difference - designed to stabilise investment in renewables - have on securing investment in these technologies? To what extent will reforms to Northern Irish planning law encourage investment in new energy generation? What impact has planning reform had on the approval of planning applications for large-scale wind farms? What is the potential shale gas yield in Northern Ireland; should hydraulic fracturing be considered as a further energy option, and if so can the environmental and community concerns be suitably addressed? What further steps should policymakers take to increase investor confidence in the energy market?
Michael Doran, Director, Action Renewables
Robert Wasson, Asset Management Director, Northern Ireland Electricity
James Orr, Northern Ireland Director, Friends of the Earth
Alan Bissett, Partner and Head of Corporate and Commercial, Belfast, Arthur Cox
Robin McCormick, Director of Operations, Planning and Innovation, Eirgrid and General Manager, SONI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Steven Agnew MLA, Leader, Green Party in Northern Ireland and Member, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Assembly

