
From: Sean Cudmore [PFfNI] <SeanCudmore@policyforumforni.co.uk>
Sent: 06 June 2016 14:41
To: Johnston, Timothy
Subject: Conference on the future of energy policy in Northern Ireland - with keynote address from Jenny Pyper, Utility Regulator, Northern Ireland - Policy Forum for Northern Ireland, Morning, Tuesday 6th December 2016

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar
**Energy in Northern Ireland - the energy market,
renewables and security of supply**

with

Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator

and

John French, Consumer Council Northern Ireland; **Iain Hoy**, CBI NI; **Robin McCormick**, Systems Operators Northern Ireland (SONI); **Richard Murphy**, Pinsent Masons and **Maf Smith**, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG)

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*Morning, Tuesday, 6th December 2016
Belfast*

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Dear Mr Johnston

I am writing to give you advance notice of 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.

This seminar will provide a timely opportunity to discuss key challenges for the energy market, including the renewable energy sector in Northern Ireland.

It takes place with the new Assembly beginning its mandate, and as a new Executive takes its first steps towards potential policy development in this area.

It is also timed to follow the conclusion of the Department for Infrastructure's mid-term review of the [2010 Strategic Energy Framework](#) - expected to be published later this year - and as the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee conducts an inquiry into the [Electricity market in Northern Ireland](#).

Delegates will discuss how Northern Ireland can secure long-term security of electricity supply, whilst also ensuring that energy prices are at a level satisfactory to consumers, investors and potential investors.

The introduction of the [Integrated Single Electricity Market](#) (I-SEM) - which must be in place by the end of 2017 - and developments in the building of the North-South Interconnector will also be discussed as part of wider issues relating to infrastructure investment.

Further planned sessions focus upon the next steps for renewable energy following the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation scheme and Renewable Heat Incentive late last year, and will assess the prominence of wind energy as the primary source of alternative energy in Northern Ireland.

Overall areas for discussion include:

- Next steps for the energy market - competition, costs and improving consumer confidence;
- The future of the renewable sector, especially in light of the closure of renewable incentives; and
- Security of supply and infrastructure - planning, costs and future opportunities.

The conference is expected to bring together senior officials from the Northern Ireland Assembly and legislative departments with key stakeholders from the energy market, such as energy providers, manufacturing firms and consumer groups.

The draft agenda is copied below my signature, and a regularly updated version is available to download [here](#). The seminar is organised on the basis of strict impartiality by the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland. Follow us [@PolicyNI](#) for live updates.

Speakers

We are delighted that **Jenny Pyper**, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator has agreed to deliver a keynote address at the event.

At this very early stage, **John French**, Chief Executive, Consumer Council Northern Ireland; **Iain Hoy**, Senior Policy Advisor, CBI NI; **Robin McCormick**, General Manager, Systems Operators Northern Ireland (SONI); **Richard Murphy**, Partner, Pinsent Masons and **Maf Smith**, Deputy Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) have also agreed to speak.

Additional senior participants are currently being approached, but if you or a colleague would like to be considered as a speaker at this seminar, please contact us at speakeroffers@forumsupport.co.uk specifying the event and session where you would like to speak and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. If you are offering to speak yourself please don't fill in the booking form.

Networking

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland seminars provide a timely opportunity to gain a balanced view of the key policy areas of the day and to engage with stakeholders from industry, citizens' groups and other interested parties, and are **CPD** certified ([more details](#)).

Typically, attendees at our seminars are a senior and informed group numbering around 120, including Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and senior officials from the Northern Ireland Executive, regulators and other agencies, representatives of the energy market, utilities companies, the renewable sector, the business sector, planning, law firms, and others interested in the issues being discussed, together with reporters from the national and trade press based in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

Output and About Us

A key output of the seminar will be a transcript of the proceedings, sent out around 10 working days after the event to all attendees and a wider group of Ministers and officials in the Department for the Economy; as well as MLAs with a special interest in the subject. It will also be made available more widely. This document will include transcripts of all speeches and questions and answers sessions from the day, along with access to PowerPoint presentations, speakers' biographies, an attendee list, an agenda, sponsor information, as well as any subsequent press coverage of the day and any articles or comment pieces submitted by delegates. It is made available subject to strict restrictions on public use, and is intended to provide timely information for interested parties who are unable to attend on the day.

All delegates will receive complimentary PDF copies and are invited to contribute to the content.

The Policy Forum for Northern Ireland is strictly impartial and cross-party. The Forum has no policy agenda of its own.

Booking arrangements

To book places, please use our [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:

- Copies of the [briefing document](#), including full transcripts of all speeches and the questions and comments sessions and further articles from interested parties, will be available approximately **10 days** after the event.

I do hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a most useful morning and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Sean

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Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Energy in Northern Ireland - the energy market, renewables and security of supply

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6th December 2016

Venue: Belfast

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00	Registration and coffee
9.00 - 9.05	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
9.05 - 9.35	<u>Energy in Northern Ireland - priorities for policy</u> Senior speaker to be announced Questions and comments from the floor
9.35 - 9.45	<u>The Electricity sector in Northern Ireland - The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's inquiry so far</u> Senior speaker to be announced
9.45 - 10.20	<u>Next steps for the energy market - competition, costs and improving consumer confidence</u> John French , Chief Executive, Consumer Council Northern Ireland Iain Hoy , Senior Policy Advisor, CBI NI Senior representative, energy supplier Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker to be announced
10.20 - 11.10	<u>The future for renewable energy in Northern Ireland - meeting the 2020 target</u> Maf Smith , Deputy Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) Senior representative, renewable developer Senior representative, renewables campaign group Senior representative, alternative renewables Academic Questions and comments from the floor
11.10 - 11.15	<u>Chair's closing remarks</u> Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
11.15 - 11.40	Coffee
11.40 - 11.45	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
11.45 - 12.10	<u>Evolving energy markets</u> Jenny Pyper , Chief Executive, Utility Regulator Questions and comments from the floor
12.10 - 12.55	<u>Security of supply and infrastructure - planning, costs and future opportunities</u> Richard Murphy , Partner, Pinsent Masons Robin McCormick , General Manager, Systems Operators Northern Ireland (SONI) Senior representative, utility company Senior representative, planning organisation Questions and comments from the floor
12.55 - 13.00	<u>Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks</u> Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly Sean Cudmore , Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland