

Publication: Impartial Reporter  
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017  
Page: 4  
Extract: 1 of 2  
Circulation: 11449  
Author:  
Headline: Allister claims Kesh-born ex-DUP adviser heats home under RHI



# Allister claims Kesh-born ex-DUP adviser heats home under RHI

**A**FTER months of turmoil and political unrest Stormont was dissolved yesterday (Wednesday) and now less than a year after the last election we are set for another one six weeks from now.

The Assembly's final days were not without drama as the political fallout over the botched renewable heat incentive, one of the reasons why Stormont collapsed, rumbled on.

Traditional Unionist Voice leader Jim Allister claimed on Monday night that Arlene Foster's former special adviser Stephen Brimstone "is heating his own house on the non-domestic boiler scheme."

Using Assembly privilege, Mr. Allister said the Kesh man had a new biomass boiler in his house but took it out and installed a new non-domestic one to "rip off" RHI.

"Did he claim that he had a few sheep and was a sheep farmer? Does he have sheep?"

"One thing is for sure: he is heating his own house. Is that right? Is that how things should be under this scheme?"

"Was this scheme so lax and so perforated that that was an okay

thing to do? Even if the individual thought it morally the right thing to do, does this scheme permit that? If it does, is that not one of the loopholes that the minister should have addressed in these regulations?"

"It is scandalous that someone can purport to qualify for the non-domestic renewable heat scheme and devote the greater bulk of the heat that they produce to heating their own house, and to do it with considerable forethought."

Mr. Allister said Mr. Brimstone had built a new house some years ago.

"He had a biomass boiler in it, but he took it out to qualify for this scheme, because you had to have a new boiler," he continued.

"He put in a new non-domestic scheme boiler under the scheme in

order to qualify.

"That is the sort of rip-off that brings disrepute to all of the scheme and, sadly, causes great injury to the bona fide users."

The DUP indicated that Mr. Brimstone did not want to comment on Mr. Allister's claims.

In November, Mr. Brimstone left his £92,000 a year post to pursue a career in the private sector.

Stormont  
Files will return  
following the snap  
election on March  
2 if our political  
parties can repair  
and rebuild the  
institutions.



Jim Allister.

Publication: Impartial Reporter  
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017  
Page: 4  
Extract: 2 of 2  
Circulation: 11449  
Author:  
Headline: Allister claims Kesh-born ex-DUP adviser heats home under RHI



Stephen Brimstone.