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Dear John,

Review of Northern Ireland Non-Domestic RHI Scheme

Thank you for your letter of 7th March, in which you summarised our understanding regarding a review of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, following our teleconference on 16th February and subsequent detailed discussions between our teams.

I confirm that we agree with the proposed approach. We have already advanced our discussions with Deloitte, who are a potential provider of the independent review in line with our current Ofgem framework. I expect our teams to engage in the coming days on reviewing an initial proposal from Deloitte. As per your letter, once a final costed proposal has been received and reviewed by our teams, we will be in a position to confirm a final decision on proceeding with this review.

I note that we are expecting a number of site checks to form part of the review, and that we would expect the sampling approach to be the subject of advice from Deloitte. We agreed that an appropriate sample will be central to the robust findings of any final report, and therefore an initial review of processes and controls is likely to be specified by Deloitte, prior to them being well-placed to advise on the most appropriate split of site audits. We recognise that this is likely to mean that site audit activity would be conducted primarily in the 16/17 year, but we are looking to progress the initial phases of the review as swiftly as possible in order to understand any options for advancing this activity.

I look forward to receiving a proposal from Deloitte, and hope we will be able to correspond again in the near future to confirm our agreement to commence with a review.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Poulton
Managing Director, E-Serve