



Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

RHI Inquiry
1st Floor, Waterfront Plaza
8 Laganbank Road
Belfast
BT1 3LY

Direct Dial: 0207 901 3051 /
0207 901 1874

FAO: Mr Patrick Butler

Email: Sukhinder.Lalli@ofgem.gov.uk
mark.mills@ofgem.gov.uk

(by email only)

Date: 20 June 2018

Dear Paddy

Media articles

I refer to your letter dated 1 June 2018 attaching three media articles (**the articles**). Your letter requests information about Ofgem's awareness of the articles, any subsequent steps taken and asks that relevant documents be disclosed.

I confirm that documentation relevant to your request has been uploaded to Huddle and is accessible via the folder: '20180620 – Disclosure'. None of the material contained in that folder has previously been disclosed to the Inquiry. The focus of the articles was the domestic and non-domestic GB RHI Schemes and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (**DECC**). Consequently, such documents would not have been identified as relevant as part of our initial disclosure exercise.

Your specific queries relevant to the three articles are addressed below. The information provided is based on a review of the correspondence now produced to the Inquiry.

1. 'Rich enjoy free fuel and taxpayers' cash while millions must choose between heating and eating', Daily Mirror, 11 November 2014 (the Daily Mirror article)

The Daily Mirror article was captured by Ofgem's internal media monitoring system on 11 November 2014. Internal email correspondence demonstrates that the story was then circulated amongst various RHI staff, the communications team and the enquiries team. The enquiries team were instructed to refer policy queries to DECC and further media requests to Ofgem's corporate communications team.

The Inquiry is already aware from the oral evidence of Dr Edmund Ward (see transcript Day 73, p. 165 to 166) that this article was referred to in the paper 'Gaming – Wasting heat' by Katy Read.

2. 'Green biomass boilers may waste billions in public money', The Guardian, 14 January 2015 (the first Guardian article)

It appears that Ofgem became aware of the first Guardian article on 14 January 2015. Internal email correspondence confirms that the article was sent to Ofgem's communications team and circulated amongst various RHI staff.

Ofgem subsequently communicated with DECC's press office who confirmed that they were in the process of developing a response to the article.

3. 'With this attack on community energy the big six win out over "big society"', The Guardian, 23 January 2015 (the second Guardian article)

Our enquiries have not uncovered any evidence that Ofgem was aware of this article prior to the Inquiry raising it with Ofgem through its letter.

In relation to the material now disclosed, some of that material includes personal details of DECC staff members. We again ask the Inquiry to redact any personal information of these staff members from documents which are published by the Inquiry, in accordance with Restriction Order 1. Further, Ofgem respectfully submits that the Inquiry redact the names of DECC staff members from any published documents to provide additional protection for the personal details and identities of these DECC staff members who have no direct involvement in the NI RHI Scheme or the Inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sukhinder Lalli or me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP.' followed by a stylized flourish.

Mark Mills

Principal Legal Adviser

Copy to: Sukhinder Lalli, Inquiry Director