



Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast  
BT4 2JP  
Telephone: 028 9052 9900  
Text Relay: 18001 028 9052 9900  
Fax: 028 9052 9273  
Web: [foi@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@economy-ni.gov.uk)

Date: XX November 2016

Mr Andrew Madden  
Madden-A7@email.ulster.ac.uk

DfE Ref No. DfE/2016-0092

#### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

Thank you for your request for information regarding documentation relating to the Renewable Heat Incentive. The request was received on 3 November 2016 and the Department is dealing with it under the terms of the above legislation.

I can confirm that Department holds the information requested and have attached the documents listed in the index at Annex A to this letter.

Some of the personal information contained within the attachments is exempt from disclosure under regulation 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations. Release of this information would breach the first data protection principle, and it is therefore being withheld.

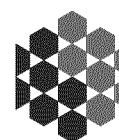
Information withheld under regulation 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations is not subject to a Public Interest Test.

I have also enclosed an Access to Information Factsheet which provides information on EIR procedures, including what to do if you are not happy with our response, and some useful contact points.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Wightman  
Department for the Economy



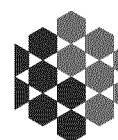


## Annex A

### Index

1	Development of a renewable heat strategy	30 April 2009	
2	Business Case for appointment of Consultants to assist in development of a renewable heat strategy	27 May 2009	
3	Study into the potential for a RHI in NI	23 September 2009	
4	ETI Committee queries	20 November 2009	
5	Assembly research query - renewable heat study	23 February 2010	
6	ETI Committee query on RHI	5 March 2010	
7	Update on Renewable Heat study	9 April 2010	
8	Conclusion of the Study into Renewable Heat and Next Steps	9 August 2010	
9	LCM for enabling powers for Renewable Heat	31 January 2011	
10	Economic appraisal on Renewable Heat Incentive for Northern Ireland.	8 June 2011	
11	Proposed consultation document and draft press release	5 July 2011	
12	BC for appointment of Ofgem to carry out feasibility study into administrative arrangements for NIRHI	10 August 2011	
13	ETI Committee Query The Renewable Heat Incentive	6 October 2011	
14	Assembly researcher request renewable heat study	8 November 2011	
15	Business Case - RHI Follow up - Direct Award Contract	8 December 2011	
16	Query from the ETI committee in relation to a letter from GT Energy	6 February 2012	
17	THE NI RHI & RHPP - Approval to proceed with introduction	16 March 2012	
18	BC for the appointment of OFGEM, via an Agency Service Agreement, to administer the NI RHI	18 April 2012	
19	Query from ETI Committee - RHI SL1	30 April 2012	
20	Update on the NI RHI	22 June 2012	
21	Query from ETI Committee in relation to the Renewable Heat regulations SL1	18 July 2012	
22	Publicity for the RHI and the RHPP	22 August 2012	
23	Business case for proposal to engage consultants to assist in development of phase 2 of the NI RHI	30 October 2012	
24	Letters to financial institutions - Renewable Energy	31 December 2012	
25	ETI Committee request for an update on the RHI	15 March 2013	





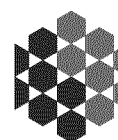
Department for the

**Economy**

www.economy-ni.gov.uk

26	Proposed consultation - ETI Committee	26 June 2013	
27	RHI – Update for ETI Committee	15 May 2014	
28	Domestic RHI - Government response and SL1	17 June 2014	
29	ETI committee query on SL1	7 July 2014	
30	Domestic aspect of Phase 2 - Business case approval and announcement	16 September 2014	
31	Update for ETI Committee	16 October 2014	
32	Query from the ETI Committee in relation to RHI and NIEA ammonia testing	22 October 2014	





Department for the  
**Economy**  
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

## Access to Information Fact Sheet

Note: This leaflet gives an overview of some of the main provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations and should not be regarded as a legal interpretation.

**1. What is the Freedom of Information Act?** The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 was fully implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, giving you the right to request information from public authorities. This allows you to access information about how the Department works, spends public money, reaches decisions, etc.

**Information may also be obtained under:**

- **The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)** - this allows you access to information held *about you* by both public and private organisations, and gives you the right to make sure it is correct.
- **The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)** - This legislation gives you access to any environmental information held by organisations that perform public functions.

**2. How do I get information about Department for the Economy under these Acts?** You can find information on the Department's website: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk> If you can't see what you're looking for you can contact us by email at [foi@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:foi@economy-ni.gov.uk) or write to us at:

Information Management Unit  
Department for the Economy  
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP

Please state your name, address, telephone number and specific details of the information you require.

**3 How long does it take to get information under the FOI Act?** Once a written request for information is received, we will respond promptly, and at any rate, within 20 working days. In certain circumstances a final response may be made outside this period where additional time is needed to determine whether or not disclosure would be in the public interest.

**4. Is there a cost?** This depends on a number of factors including the volume and complexity of material requested. Responses to enquiries that cost the department less than £600 to process<sup>i</sup> will be provided free of charge, although there may be a small charge for disbursements<sup>ii</sup>. The Department has a right to refuse an FOI request if the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds £600. We will not refuse a request for environmental information on the grounds of cost alone; however we have the right to charge a reasonable





amount to cover processing costs. In all cases, we will notify you of any estimated costs before proceeding with the request.

**5. What happens if the information I want is not available?** The Department is not obliged to create or acquire information it does not already hold, but we will try to assist where possible. We may contact you about what relevant information we do hold, or may offer to transfer your request to another public authority that might help.

**6. Can I have any information at all?** The FOI Act and Environmental Information Regulations allow you access to much of the information held by public bodies. But some types of information are exempted, for example personal details about others, or where disclosure might prejudice a company's commercial interests.

**7. What if I am refused information?** We will tell you if information is being withheld and why. If you are unhappy with how we have handled your request you have the right to request an internal review. To request an internal review send an email or letter within 40 working days, to our Head of Information Management Unit – see contact details at point 2 above.

We will reply to you within 20 working days. If you are not satisfied with the result of the internal review you may appeal to the Information Commissioner (details provided below at point 9). The Commissioner will normally expect an internal review to have been carried out prior to appeal.

**8. How do I find out more?** More information is available from office of the Information Commissioner at:

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk">www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	01625 545 700
<b>Post:</b>	Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ni@ico.org.uk">ni@ico.org.uk</a>

**Re-use of Information**

Some information supplied to you under the FOI Act may continue to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK for the purposes of news reporting without requiring permission. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by government departments will be protected by Crown Copyright and most Crown Copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence. Further details are available on the The National Archives website. Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party, see the Intellectual Property Office's website at [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk).

