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From: Keith Avis
Sent: 2012-12-11T10:54:45Z
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Update on NI Admin Arrangements/ IT release approach
Received: 2012-12-11T10:54:46Z

All

I have just come off the phone from Joanne McCutcheon at DETI who have had a response from the NI Audit Office. Unfortunately the NIAO have taken a firmer line with DETI than they were envisaging when they spoke to Matthew on Friday, saying that they are independent from the NAO and if they audit DETI on NIRHI they must have the ability to "follow the money", which would include audit access rights when it comes to Ofgem. Joanne is fully aware of our stance on this, and assures me that our points have been made to the NIAO. Fiona Hepper is now asking for an urgent meeting with NIAO to talk this through. This should take place over the next day or so....the upshot being that we cannot sign the Admin Arrangement until that meeting has taken place.

I spoke to Joanne about options should NIAO not be prepared to move. One option that would have legs in the interim would be to sign of the Arrangements, making clear that there are audit issues to be resolved, and on the basis of confirmation from DETI that they are prepared to meet Ofgem's 2012/13 fy costs. I think that this would be workable as it would allow us to take a firm line on how we would administer the scheme after March 2013. Indeed maybe we should have the Admin Arrangements time limited to the end of this fy.

I appreciate that it is incredibly frustrating that this continues to drag on, suffice to say, I will update Bob and the RHI Implementation Board accordingly when we meet this morning.

Keith

From: Keith Avis
Sent: 10 December 2012 15:55
To: Mary Smith; Jacqueline Balian; Michelle Murdoch; Lindsay Goater; Johan Brand; Sophie Jubb; Luis Castro
Subject: RE: Update on NI Admin Arrangements/ IT release approach

Hi All

By way of a further update...

Admin Arrangements:

I have just spoken to DETI. They have received bits and pieces from their Audit team today, but not a full response. They should, however, get this by cop today. Officials are meeting with Fiona Hepper at 10:30 tomorrow to discuss the response and will come back to us on whether they want the Arrangements signed with or without the line in Bob's covering letter about audit issue still to be discussed/resolved. I have asked for DETI to come back to me by 11:30 so that Mary and I can cover this at the RHI Implementation Board tomorrow.

IT release:

Johan has spoken to Andy. Andy is talking this through with Hans this afternoon and will then come back to Johan in the morning. We will share his thoughts on planning with you and can arrange a wider meeting to discuss as necessary. One option would be to pass the majority of the NIRHI checkpoint meeting tomorrow afternoon(15:00-16:00) over to discussing and nailing the IT functionality. I am happy to do this if needs be. Suffice to say we will be looking to reach agreement on the way forward on IT development by cop tomorrow. I will then build the new implementation plan into the Project Plan.

Happy to discuss any of this further as you wish.

Keith

From: Mary Smith
Sent: 07 December 2012 17:13
To: Jacqueline Balian; Keith Avis; Michelle Murdoch; Lindsay Goater
Subject: Update on NI Admin Arrangements/ IT release approach

Hi All,

Just to update you following a call this afternoon with DETI.

Admin Arrangements:

Their Audit team is still considering the details that we have provided on our audit arrangements; they are due to hear back with any feedback by end of Monday. Should any further discussions be needed on the details of the audit process, Fiona doesn't want this to delay signing off the arrangements and expects they should be able to sign them early next week. Keith/ I will confirm with you when we have actually received the signed arrangements back. I understand we still haven't received an application, however would be grateful if you could let me know should this change.

IT release

Given a joint release in March will now cost more than a standalone release, we have agreed with DETI to continue with a standalone release. As there has been a slight delay to bringing in UAT temps, the release will take place in February and not January – DETI are aware of this timing and we will work up a revised implementation plan to reflect this early next week.

If you have any queries, please let me know.

Kind regards

Mary

Mary Smith

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