



NIRHI Report – Restricted

The NIRHI scheme incentivises the use of renewable heat for (initially) non-domestic applications. Ofgem E-Serve accredits and approves payments for renewable heat installations in accordance with legislative requirements from DETI.

Accreditations Summary:

	February	March	April	Cumulative scheme to date
Applications Received	35	63	55	617
Applications Accredited (Inc preliminary & exclusive of rejections & amendments)	34	70	47	450
Amendments Approved	5	3	2	27
Preliminary Approvals	0	0	0	1
Rejected Applications	0	0	0	1
* Applications with applicant at month end	64	48	50	-
* Applications with Ofgem at month end	107	118	120	-
Capacity Installed MW	4	7	4	44**
Active Full Accredited Cumulative Installations	-	-	-	445

* These numbers are indicative as they are a snapshot in time and may fluctuate dependent upon the month-end reporting cycle.

** Please note the cumulative total shows only active Full Accredited Installations.

Accreditations: We received 55 applications in April, which is a decrease of 13% against March numbers. There were 47 applications accredited, the second highest month since the NI scheme commenced.

Rejections: Total rejections for the NI scheme: 1 reported in September 2013

State Aid: In line with our agreement, DETI continues to conduct state aid analysis on NIRHI applications which are in receipt of public support which is not a grant (e.g. Carbon Trust loans). Their decision on whether the state aid received amounts to the provision of other public support when the EU de minimis aid regulation is applied is fed back to us to inform our accreditation decision. This month, one more installation in receipt of state aid (a Carbon Trust loan) was accredited, bringing the total to 26.

Periodic Data: 148 live submissions were received in this month; 166 submissions had reviews completed; 35 of 166 (21.08%) were sent back to participant to correct errors.



Enquiries: We received 202 calls and 165 email enquiries during April compared to 239 calls and 148 emails in March.

Grants: NIRHI Regulation 23, which deals with grants, was amended on 8th December 2014 so that any applicant in receipt of a grant from public funds or other public support can now repay to the person or authority who made it in order to access NIRHI support. (Previously there were restrictions on the circumstances in which repayment was possible which related to the installation's completion and commissioning dates.) In contrast to the GB scheme, DETI has not included the option for a reduced tariff payment which is available under the GB Regulations in limited circumstances.

Payments: RHI payments made in April 2015 totalled £998,946.23 for 18,176 MWh of eligible heat. Total payment to date is £5,361,147.12 for 96.0 GWh of eligible heat. 1,070 individual payments have been made to date since the inception of the Scheme.

Suspected Fraud Investigations: As at 1 May 2015 we have no cases of suspected fraud under investigation on the Northern Ireland (NI) NDRHI scheme.

Audits: The audit strategy for the NI audit programme for 2015/2016 has not yet been finalised internally. The following figures relate to audits undertaken in the financial year 2014/2015: 7 post-accreditation audits have been carried out YTD, of these 5 were non compliant (71%). 4 of these installations presented non-compliances with a material impact (i.e. 57% material non-compliance rate). One pre-accreditation audit has been completed YTD. This was found to be non-compliant on the basis that heat losses were not being properly accounted for and no fuel records were being kept for the site. There are four NI audits left to be finalised. This will happen during May 2015.

Communications: We are continuing work on the following:

- Reviews of the existing scheme website and guidance, in order to improve accessibility.
- Updated draft proposals and communications plans including feedback gathered from the internal guidance and webpage survey, with revised timelines and plans for external resource to deliver web updates across all e-serve schemes.

NIRHI Development: DETI have compiled a number of policy proposals which detail proposed amendments to the scheme, based upon the outputs of the Phase 2 consultation. We have reviewed these and provided initial feedback. DETI have requested that we complete a feasibility study for their chosen policy proposals and we have agreed costs and the timeline for this. The data sharing protocol has been signed and is in operation.

