

NOTE OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING BETWEEN DfE AND OFGEM RE RHI – 18 May 2016

Present

DfE

Stuart Wightman
Seamus Hughes
Adele Willis
Peter Briggs

Ofgem

Edmund Ward
Teri Clifton
Jane Pierce

1. Departmental changes

- Stuart outlined the recent Departmental changes. DETI has amalgamated with DEL and the new department is DfE. Energy Division has also been split and Alison Clydesdale heads the new Energy – Renewables division. The new name can be updated in website documents as and when other amendments are being made.

2. Update on the Deloitte review

- Ofgem met Deloitte on Friday and responses to Michael Woods' points have been drafted. Ofgem will send these to Michael and cc DfE RHI team.
- Deloitte should express an independent opinion on the validity of the allegations of scheme abuse and whether there is any evidence supporting them.
- Ofgem have a workshop on Friday 20 May with Deloitte and Ricardo and will ensure clarity on required action under Phase 2.

Action – Ofgem to forward responses to DfE Internal Audit.

3. DfE proposals for RHI Independent Assurance Provider for site audits

- DfE intend to accelerate procurement of additional audits in response to an NIAO audit report. Will need to ensure that the separate audit programmes complement each other, and Deloitte may be able to advise how to ensure this. One possibility may be for the DfE procured audits to look at large numbers at a high level, with Ricardo audits looking in detail at any installations on which issues are raised under DfE's audits.
- DETI will complete a business case in the coming weeks and will share a synopsis when the business case has been completed.

Action – DfE to forward synopsis of Business Case to Ofgem.

4. Preliminary accreditation applications

- Ofgem and DfE to consider possible conditions to attach to granting of preliminary accreditations. DfE ministerial approval of approach to preliminary accreditation applications will be necessary.
- Ofgem gave a position update on preliminary accreditation.

5. Update on application processing

- Ofgem are processing applications received in early November 2015. DfE happy with progress.
- Ofgem may have to reject some applications received due to heat use reason given. Applications which have any questions raised on them are referred for audits if appropriate.

6. Budget

- 15/16 budget has been finalised.
- 16/17 budget – estimate 325k + Deloitte review. Between 6 and 12 audits should be allowed for.

7. Revised change control

- Ofgem will send over a revised change control in the coming weeks.

Action – Ofgem to send through revised change control.