

To: Alison Hardie[Alison.Hardie@ofgem.gov.uk]; Gareth John[Gareth.John@ofgem.gov.uk]; Jane Pierce[Jane.Pierce@ofgem.gov.uk]; Chris Poulton[Chris.Poulton@ofgem.gov.uk]
Cc: Mark Wiltsher[Mark.Wiltsher@ofgem.gov.uk]
From: Stuart Forsyth
Sent: 2016-12-09T10:33:21Z
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Nolan Show on again today [OFFICIAL Internal Only]
Received: 2016-12-09T10:33:24Z

The Nolan show didn't get round to the RHI today as they spent all the time on the other issue. Will tune in again tomorrow.

Regards
 Stuart

From: Stuart Forsyth

Sent: 09 December 2016 09:12

To: Alison Hardie; Gareth John; Jane Pierce; Chris Poulton

Cc: Mark Wiltsher

Subject: RE: Nolan Show on again today [OFFICIAL Internal Only]

Morning,

The Nolan Show is covering the RHI again, in part (the other story he's covering today is some sort of PSNI/paramilitary activity scandal).

Today he will be speaking to an installer of boilers. I will provide a summary after 10:30.

Some of the coverage today comes on the back of the Nolan Show:

The Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/politicalnews/2016/12/09/news/rhi-funding-flaws-uncovered-in-five-minutes-says-whistleblower-827117/>

Meanwhile, Ulster Unionist MLA Roy Beggs yesterday claimed DETI ministers may not have addressed the scheme because they thought Westminster was paying for it.

Belfast Newsletter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/heating-scandal-did-ministers-think-westminster-would-pick-up-tab-1-7723333>

Belfast Newsletter

RHI saga shows at best a failure to understand human nature

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/rhi-saga-shows-at-best-a-failure-to-understand-human-nature-1-7722508>

Regards
 Stuart

From: Stuart Forsyth

Sent: 08 December 2016 11:26

To: Alison Hardie; Gareth John; Jane Pierce; Chris Poulton

Cc: Mark Wiltsher

Subject: RE: Nolan Show on again today [OFFICIAL Internal Only]

The Nolan Show on BBC Radio Ulster has just finished – once again with no mention of Ofgem.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b084cnx5>

However, every show for the rest of the week and probably next will be about this issue so I expect our statement will be read out at some point (Nolan highlighted that no-one was coming in to be interviewed and just sending statements).

The main takeaways were:

- Whistleblower who emailed Arlene Foster in October 2013 interviewed (it was precorded) – says she spotted flaws after 5 mins of being on the DETI website to look at tariffs compared to GB ones. Claims she was in hotels, care homes and offices that had windows open on and heating on in warm weather. When she emailed DETI again in 2014 & 2015 she says officials said it was on their radar.
- Nolan questions again why scheme kept open for 10 weeks before closure, suggesting it would be interesting to see who got in during that period: "If those names are made public it might be very, very interesting indeed).
- Nolan refers to PWC report and claims of wood pellets being dried only to be thrown in to the boiler themselves as a way of gaining payments.
- Spoke to Mike Nesbitt MLA (Ulster Unionist Party) who highlighted that 99% of applications were successful and that the department was not good enough at assessing applications.
- Mike Nesbitt also said he'd put the WB forward for a Queen's honour if she came to him. Nolan flags to him that he voted to keep it open in February when closure was proposed. MN makes point that people invest in the kit upfront and it was wrong to pull rug from underneath them.
- Spoke to Stephen Farry MLA (Alliance Party) who has called for all correspondence to be released.
- Says Sinn Feinn have demanded to know the names of people using the scheme and has asked for a second legal opinion on this.

- Nolan says "there are bombsells to come" on this story.



Stephen Nolan @StephenNolan · 1h

Breaking: Nolan show understands Sinn Fein insisting a 2nd legal opinion being sought as to whether names of businesses in RHI can be published

← 8 ↻ 8 ❤️ 4 ⋮

I'll listen in to the show tomorrow too.

Couple of pieces of media coverage today with some stand-out lines:

The Irish News

Foster refuses to quit over RHI

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/12/07/news/arlene-foster-rejects-call-to-resign-over-botched-renewable-energy-scheme-825475/>

However, Mr Hamilton hit back and said previous ministers had been ill-advised by policy officials. "It is very clear to me that the ministers followed all advice given to them and because that advice was wrong; it was based on bad grounds the scheme was badly designed," he said.

ANALYSIS: £1.2bn goes up in smoke and nobody is accountable

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/12/08/news/analysis-1-2bn-goes-up-in-smoke-and-nobody-is-accountable-825192/>

As revealed in The Irish News last month, unwritten Stormont conventions mean Mrs Foster will escape a grilling by the Public Accounts Committee and in all likelihood she will be spared of any blame in an inquiry whose remit is restricted to identifying whether a government department got value for money.

If there is to be a more thorough investigation then that will fall to Stormont's economy committee, though so far under the chairmanship of Sinn Féin's Conor Murphy it has shown little appetite for taking up the RHI cause. With Stormont's honeymoon period enduring, Sinn Féin appears to be content to walk that thin line where it voices outrage but avoids pinning blame.

Belfast Telegraph

Foster refuses to quit over RHI

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/first-minister-arlene-foster-refuses-to-quit-over-green-energy-scheme-fiasco-35277051.html>

Mr Hamilton hit back and said previous ministers had been ill-advised by policy officials

Regards

Stuart

From: Stuart Forsyth

Sent: 08 December 2016 09:11

To: Alison Hardie; Gareth John; Jane Pierce; Chris Poulton

Subject: Nolan Show on again today [OFFICIAL Internal Only]

I'm listening to it now and they're talking to one of the whistleblowers. I've sent the statement we drafted so it may be read out.

Regards

Stuart

Stuart Forsyth

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Annotated by RHI Inquiry

[Internal Only]