

**To:** New Schemes Development[NewSchemesDevelopment@ofgem.gov.uk]  
**From:** Matthew Harnack  
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Hi all,

I wanted to give you an update on a few recent developments before we break for the long weekend:

NI RHI go-ahead

DETI have just written to us to formally tell us that they want us to administer the NI RHI. This is fantastic news and is a real credit to Catherine, David, Jonah, Keith and others who worked on the feasibility study last year and have managed the relationship with DETI since. Keith Avis will be the lead on this project and his first steps will be reviewing the project plan (given that DETI seem to be indicating that the NI RHI will be *exactly* the same as GB RHI apart from tariff rates), agreeing a revised budget, and getting resources in place to deliver the scheme.

FITs Phase 2A funding

DECC have now indicated that they are comfortable with the costs we have put forward for delivery of Phase 2A of the comprehensive review (and for other additional staffing costs which have been included in the same change request). Unfortunately they will need to seek approval from their Director General for additional funds as we are asking for more than they have in their budget, but we are inching closer on an agreement on this change request. This will be a significant achievement if we get it – we are asking for more than £600k of additional budget. Thank you to Luis, Andrew, Keith, Marisa, Gav and a host of other people for their contribution to this.

ECO legislation and Authority paper

DECC have now submitted the ECO Order to JCSI, the first step in getting it through parliament. This is the culmination of several weeks of blood, sweat and tears on the part of a number of people here, who worked to get DECC to improve the drafting to make it robust, workable and fit for purpose. There is still a way to go but we understand that further changes will still be considered through the JCSI process.

Also, we are submitting a paper and slidepack to next Thursday's Authority meeting on the ECO (it was discussed at this week's Exec and MC and will be discussed again at next week's Exec and MC). The paper will update the Authority on where we are at with the regs, will ask the Authority to note the progress made on the regs, and to allow us to commence development work on the ECO. It notes that we expect to go back to the Authority in June/July for approval to administer the scheme, once the regs have been finished, our scoping study is finished and (hopefully) funding has been agreed. This proposal may be tweaked as a result of next Tuesday's Exec/MC meetings – we will give you an update and feedback from the Authority at next Friday's new schemes meeting.

Finally, thank you to David, James, Niki, Catherine, Ruth and Elizabeth for the great work on these items. Many of them have worked long hours, often over the past few weekends, in order to meet extremely tight deadlines at short notice and they have made fantastic progress getting the regs in a much better state than they started.

I hope you all have a great weekend. See you next Tuesday.

Matthew

**Matthew Harnack**

Associate Director, Commercial  
New Scheme Development  
9 Millbank  
London  
SW1P 3GE  
Tel: 020 7901 7218  
[www.ofgem.gov.uk](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk)