

**Re: Final? Draft**

Arlene Foster [arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk]

Sent: 12 December 2016 19:51

To: Clive McFarland

Cc: Timothy Johnston; John Robinson; dgordonbt@

Personal information  
redacted by the RHI  
Inquiry

Richard Bullick

Personal information redacted by the  
RHI Inquiry

Seems fine. Thanks

Sent from my iPad

On 12 Dec 2016, at 19:21, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

The establishment of a renewable heat scheme was the right thing to do. Supporters of renewable energy and others were telling me at that time it did not go far enough. We all know of the demand to increase usage of renewable energy and this scheme was aimed at helping meet those targets. RHI was a good idea, but was very poorly implemented.

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I am sorry that concerns raised by the whistle-blower were not dealt with as they should have been when raised with officials in the Department. Without the benefit of hindsight, I did what Ministers are supposed to do in such circumstances and passed the matter on to officials to investigate, establish the details and to address. Had any proposals for action been relayed to me, or had I known of the whistle-blower's dissatisfaction with replies she received from officials, then I would have taken immediate action.

I entirely accept that I am accountable to the Assembly for my past and present Ministerial roles. But that does not mean I am responsible for every action within Departments. It is perhaps not a coincidence that those leading the charge on suggesting this have never been Ministers.

There are a number of investigations and inquiries ongoing that I want to assist in whatever way possible, mindful of different roles and responsibilities held by various Committees. It is vital these investigations, including by the Public Accounts Committee conclude their work.

The mark of a politician is not how they act during the good times, but how they deal with difficulties and challenges. Others have a history of walking away when problems lie ahead, however I have a duty to deal with the issues which have been presented by the design of this scheme by experts in the field. I do not seek to underplay the significant problems associated with the renewable heat scheme, but there is a pressing need for action looking to the future.

If action is not taken, the public purse will face significant future costs associated with the scheme. Whilst

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Other steps are also being taken to further boost public confidence and allay concerns that have been aired.

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Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

Mob: Personal information redacted by  
the RHI Inquiry

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**Re: Final? Draft**

John Robinson

Sent: 12 December 2016 19:37

To: Clive McFarland

Cc: Timothy Johnston; dgordonb@<sup>Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry</sup>arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk; Richard Bullick<sup>Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry</sup>

Looks ok.

John Robinson <sup>Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry</sup>On 12 Dec 2016, at 19:21, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

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Clive McFarland  
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Inquiry

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**Re: Arlene Platform - RHI**

Gail Walker [gwalker@belfasttelegraph.co.uk]

Sent: 12 December 2016 20:01

To: Clive McFarland

Thanks Clive

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

From: Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk>

Date: 12/12/2016 7:35 pm (GMT+00:00)

To: Gail Walker <gwalker@belfasttelegraph.co.uk>

Cc: Martin Hill <mhill@belfasttelegraph.co.uk>

Subject: Arlene Platform - RHI

Gail,

The platform piece from Arlene is below. Apologies for it being slightly delayed. Its at 820 words - hopefully that is ok for length too.

Clive

**Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA**

"The establishment of a renewable heat scheme was the right thing to do. Supporters of renewable energy and others were telling me at that time it did not go far enough. We all know of the demand to increase usage of renewable energy and this scheme was aimed at helping meet those targets. RHI was a good idea, but was very poorly implemented.

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**Arlene RHI Platform**

Clive McFarland

Sent: 12 December 2016 20:34

To: Gregory Campbell Personal information redacted  
by the RHI Inquiry

Categories: Yellow Category

This will be in from Arlene in the morning.

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**Re: Draft Platform for Bel Tel**

Simon Hamilton

**Sent:** 12 December 2016 20:43  
**To:** Clive McFarland  
**Categories:** Yellow Category

This seems fine to me

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2016, at 19:28, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

I forgot to copy you in to a proposed final draft - John had talked about including figures, but there is some concern about putting something in which could then be challenged. This draft does take on the fact that the £400m figure isn't gospel.

My mobile has died but you can get me on 02890 521326

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Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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**From:** Simon Hamilton  
**Sent:** 12 December 2016 19:24  
**To:** David; Clive McFarland; Arlene Foster  
**Cc:** Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick; John Robinson  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Platform for Bel Tel

I think that's grand

**Simon Hamilton MLA**  
NI Assembly Member for Strangford

7 The Square, Town Parks, Comber. BT23 5DX  
Tel No: 028 9187 0900

---

**From:** David [dgordonbt@redacted] Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry  
**Sent:** 12 December 2016 18:43  
**To:** Clive McFarland; Arlene Foster  
**Cc:** Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Platform for Bel Tel

David has shared a OneDrive file with you. To view it, click the link below.

draft dg.docx

One typo, one proposed tweak - both in red

---

**From:** Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2016 18:29  
**To:** Arlene Foster  
**Cc:** Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson; dgordonbt@redacted Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Platform for Bel Tel

Revised to include suggestions by Arlene.

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

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**From:** Arlene Foster [[arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk](mailto:arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk)]

**Sent:** 12 December 2016 18:13

**To:** Clive McFarland

**Cc:** Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson; [dqordonbt@...](mailto:dqordonbt@...)

Personal information  
redacted by the RHI Inquiry

**Subject:** Re: Draft Platform for Bel Tel

Do we need to say why the scheme was different in Ni from GB?

Also the mark of a politician is not how they act during the good times but how they deal with difficulties and challenges. Others have a history of walking away when problems lie ahead, however I have a duty to deal with the issues which have been presented by the design of this scheme by experts in the field.

Sent from my iPad

On 12 Dec 2016, at 17:48, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

Draft platform for the Tele attached .

Deadline is approx 7pm

Clive

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| <AF Platform RHI.docx>

**Re: Draft Platform for Bel Tel**

David [dgordonbt@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

Sent: 12 December 2016 19:16

To: Clive McFarland

Cc: Arlene Foster [arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk]; Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick [richardbullick@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson

Let me know about Gregory and Nolan tomorrow

Sent from my iPad

On 12 Dec 2016, at 18:53, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

I'm still in Parliament Buildings and mobile battery has just died.

Can get me on the landline here though 02890 521326

Will hang around until we get a final draft .

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

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Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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I don't see any issues.

Could we include the cost to date figure?

J

John Robinson [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

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The mark of a politician is not how they act during the good times, but how they deal with difficulties and challenges. Others have a history of walking away when problems lie ahead, however I have a duty to deal with the issues which have been presented by the design of this scheme by experts in the field. I do not seek to underplay the significant problems associated with the renewable heat scheme, but there is a pressing need for action looking to the future.

If action is not taken, the public purse will face significant future costs associated with the scheme. That is why work has been ongoing within the Department for the Economy to bring forward proposals to make a significant reduction on that future burden the Executive would face. This detailed work is the top priority for the department and for my colleague Simon Hamilton. A firm proposal will be brought to the Assembly and if it finds support within the Assembly a consultation document will be issued. This will all happen as early as possible in the New Year.

On top of these proposals, other steps are being taken by the Department for the Economy. I would hope these can further boost public confidence around the scheme and allay some concerns that have been aired.

There will be an inspection of every installation undertaken within the RHI scheme. There are many genuine applicants who are using the RHI in the way it was intended, but there are serious accusations about abuse of the scheme. This is unacceptable and the Executive will do all in its

power to bring it to an end. The 100% inspection process will determine that appropriate use is being made of the systems in each of the installations. Action will be taken in any instance where this is not the case.

Similarly, the department is writing to all applicants seeking consent for the publication of full information, including names. The demand by some others to publish details without such consent ignores the legal rights of privacy and confidentiality held by applicants and which must be respected. I would hope however that those who benefitted from the scheme will respond positively and that all those who are legitimate recipients will be treated respectfully given they have done absolutely nothing wrong.

These steps can deliver a significant benefit for our public finances and I would hope will be a boost to public confidence. I look forward also to the findings of the Public Accounts Committee and the Department for the Economy's fact-finding investigation. The lessons learned must be spliced into the DNA of every department and government body so there can never be a repeat of this failure. We owe that to the people of Northern Ireland.