

Some further RHI lines

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Personal information
redacted by the RHI
Inquiry

Categories: Yellow Category

* Can Nolan finally assure listeners that £400m has not been squandered? They may have formed the mistaken belief from his show that the money has been blown. The £400m is an estimate of potential overspend over a 20 year period - if no action was taken to stem losses. Minister have made clear action will be taken. So he shouldn't be over-hyping this. Let's wait and see. Let's stop quoting £400m as a fact.

* Why has he danced to Opposition tune, trying to pin the blame on Arlene Foster? What's that about? Why was he shouting about Arlene Foster having nothing to say on RHI last Wednesday morning, when he knew she was in China - and had issued a statement?

* Ministers do policy. Officials do implementation and administration. That's the rule. Does he get that?

The original RHI policy - including the fact it differed from its GB counterpart - was endorsed by the Assembly as a whole.

SDLP DETI committee chair Patsy McGlone (October 2012 when the scheme was approved by the Assembly) said: "The Committee scrutiny of the development of the renewable heat incentive has been considerable and reflects the importance and long-term nature of the proposals. Before supporting the RHI, the Committee sought and received assurances on incentive and tariff levels, banding levels, incentives for domestic consumers, payments to participants and support levels for the renewable heat premium payment scheme."

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/official-reports/plenary/2012-13/aims-hansard-20121022213141531.pdf>

Has Nolan challenged the SDLP over that support? If not, why not?

* Does he know what the RHI overspend was during Arlene Foster's time as DETI Minister? He must do, he tells us he has a team investigating this round the clock. There was actually an RHI underspend of £15m in that period. Is that a relevant fact? If an out of control scheme was Arlene Foster's fault as he has been implying, how does that underspend fit in?

* Opposition parties have repeatedly failed to explain why they tried to save RHI, despite the spiralling costs and allegations of abuse of the scheme. The vote and debate in February 2016 is on

the record. SDLP, UUP, TUV and Alliance all voted against closing RHI.

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/ni/?id=2016-02-15.6.20>

*** Of course, there are many very serious questions to be answered on this whole scheme - how it was administered, how warning from whistleblower wasn't acted upon by Department, how subsidy level was set above price of wood pellets (!), the upsurge in demand in 2015/16 and how it was handled**

But let's wait for the different investigations to be concluded - the PAC, the fact-finding investigation set up by Department. Let's not rush to judgement