

Re: Nesbitt & his smoking gun

Richard Bullick

Sent: 13 December 2016 15:18

To: John Robinson

Cc: Clive McFarland; Timothy Johnston; Simon Hamilton; dgordonbt
Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Is inexplicably a bit strong? It could be omitted

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2016, at 15:03, John Robinson <johnrobinson@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Don't see any problem with Clive's line.

Another line for consideration. Andrew McC described this as factual but "putting the boot in".

The prioritisation of the Domestic RHI scheme was based on the information and advice available to Mrs Foster at that time. Despite having information from the Whistleblower, inexplicably officials had not escalated the concerns about the non-domestic scheme.

Background

In 2013, DETI consulted on the proposals for a Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, and on some aspects of the Non-Domestic scheme, including an approach to budget management. AF asked that the work on the introduction of the domestic scheme should receive priority, but in the relevant period (from the close of consultation in October 2013 through to early 2015), officials did not raise any concern that this would lead to risks in relation to the absence of cost controls in the Non-Domestic scheme. So while the 2013 consultation paper referred to an intention to introduce cost controls, this was not put forward to the Minister as a recommendation for action until July 2015, in a submission to Minister Bell.

John Robinson | Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 13 Dec 2016, at 14:19, Richard Bullick <rjb@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Don't see a downside unless there is a better platform on Which to use them

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2016, at 14:11, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Thoughts on throwing in Cochraine-Watson's comments? Gregory or christopher to field?

Mike Nesbitt's claim to have a 'smoking gun' in relation to the renewable heat scheme demonstrates he is more interested in chasing headlines than chasing the truth.

The comments Mr Nesbitt refers to were made at a committee meeting over ten months ago. Notably a few short weeks after this 'smoking gun' was first uncovered Mike Nesbitt and his colleagues voted against the closure of the renewable heat scheme. This was despite being told that opposing its closure would be to support an "open ended commitment to fund renewable heat, no matter what the cost".

In Mike Nesbitt's endless search for a headline he conveniently ignores the underspend during each of those early years of the renewable heat scheme. No proposals for cost control were brought forward to Arlene Foster at any time yet even when the scheme was being closed amidst warnings of "open-ended commitments" the UUP's economy spokesperson was complaining that tariffs were too low.

During the debate Adrain Cochraine-Watson, the then UUP MLA said this:

They (GB based installers of biomass boilers) are receiving up to 5.6p per kilowatt RHI payment on similar boilers, yet the RHI tariff for Northern Ireland is 1.5p per kilowatt, which is less than a third, and the scheme is still open in GB.

Not only were the UUP opposing the closure of RHI but putting forward an argument that tariffs were not high enough. Perhaps Mike Nesbitt is so obsessed with a 'smoking gun' because he hopes it will obscure his party's record.

Clive McFarland
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

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Re: Draft RHI Statement

Christopher Stalford [christopher_stalford1912@outlook.com]

Sent: 13 December 2016 17:02

To: John Robinson

Cc: Clive McFarland; Simon Hamilton; Timothy Johnston; Richard Bullick [richardbullick@dup.org.uk] Gregory [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]

Spoke to Christopher and he thinks it looks fine!

Kind regards

Nathan

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2016, at 16:21, "John Robinson" <johnrobinson@dup.org.uk> wrote:

I am happy with below. If everyone else?

John Robinson

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 13 Dec 2016, at 16:06, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Christopher - see a draft statement below.

John - is this appropriate way to drop in the line you had sent through?

DUP MLA Christopher Stalford has said that Mike Nesbitt may hope that his "smoking gun" on the RHI scheme will obscure his own party's track record on the issue.

Pointing out the comments hyped by Mike Nesbitt were made before the UUP voted against the proposal to close the RHI scheme Mr Campbell also pointed to the UUP economy spokesperson's criticisms that Northern Ireland tariffs were not high enough.

Mike Nesbitt's claim to have a 'smoking gun' in relation to the renewable heat scheme demonstrates he is more interested in chasing headlines than chasing the truth.

The prioritisation of the domestic RHI scheme was based on the information and advice available to Arlene Foster at that time. Despite having information from the whistle-blower, officials had not escalated the concerns about the non-domestic scheme.

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RE: Draft Statement - Mike's smoking gun

Clive McFarland

Sent: 13 December 2016 16:29

To: Gregory Campbell Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

No problem.

Maybe Christopher

Clive McFarland
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

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From: Gregory Campbell Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Sent: 13 December 2016 16:28

To: Clive McFarland

Subject: Re: Draft Statement - Mike's smoking gun

I'm happy with the content but it may be better coming from someone else as they may reply that I didn't mention ACW's comments despite being on Nolan for almost an hour.

GC

-----Original Message-----

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

To: Gregory Campbell Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Sent: Tue, 13 Dec 2016 15:16

Subject: Draft Statement - Mike's smoking gun

DUP MP Gregory Campbell has said that UUP leader Mike Nesbitt might want the "smoking gun" he claimed to have in relation to the RHI scheme to obscure his party's position on the issue.

Pointing out the comments hyped by Mike Nesbitt were made before the UUP voted against the proposal to close the RHI scheme Mr Campbell also pointed to the UUP economy spokesperson's criticisms that Northern Ireland tariffs were not high enough.

The East Londonderry MP said, "Mike Nesbitt's claim to have a 'smoking gun' in relation to the renewable heat scheme demonstrates he is more interested in chasing headlines than chasing the truth."

The comments Mr Nesbitt refers to were made at a committee meeting over ten months ago. Notably a few short weeks after this 'smoking gun' was first uncovered Mike Nesbitt and his colleagues voted against the closure of the renewable heat scheme. This was despite being told

that opposing its closure would be to support an "open ended commitment to fund renewable heat, no matter what the cost".

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Clive McFarland
DUP Press Office

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Re: Comment

Stephen Gamble [stephen.gamble@jpress.co.uk]

Sent: 13 December 2016 17:12

To: Clive McFarland

Categories: Red Category

Many thanks Clive

Stephen Gamble**Reporter****News Letter****028 7035 7610****stephen.gamble@jpress.co.uk**On 13 December 2016 at 17:09, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Apologies for the delay.

Clive

DUP MLA Christopher Stalford has said that Mike Nesbitt may hope that his "smoking gun" on the RHI scheme will obscure his own party's track record on the issue.

Pointing out the comments hyped by Mike Nesbitt were made before the UUP voted against the proposal to close the RHI scheme Mr Stalford also pointed to the UUP economy spokesperson's criticisms that Northern Ireland tariffs were not high enough.

Mike Nesbitt's claim to have a 'smoking gun' in relation to the renewable heat scheme demonstrates he is more interested in chasing headlines than chasing the truth.

The prioritisation of the domestic RHI scheme was based on the information and advice available to Arlene Foster at that time. Despite having information from the whistle-blower, officials had not escalated the concerns about the non-domestic scheme.

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Comment re "Smoking Gun"

Clive McFarland

Sent: 13 December 2016 18:23

Categories: Yellow Category

Please see below as requested.

Clive

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