

**Re: Invest NI And Balcas**

Simon Hamilton

Sent: 20 December 2016 14:06

To: Clive McFarland

Cc: John Robinson; Timothy Johnston; richardbullick@Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Surely this encapsulates perfectly the hysteria that has developed

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Dec 2016, at 13:44, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

I saw this circulating online the other night and assumed it was a conspiracy theory!

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Dec 2016, at 13:36, John Robinson <[johnrobinson@dup.org.uk](mailto:johnrobinson@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

FYI

John Robinson | Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McCormick, Andrew (DFE)" <[Andrew.McCormick@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.McCormick@economy-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** 20 December 2016 at 13:32:52 GMT  
**To:** Simon Hamilton <[simonhamiltonmla@](mailto:simonhamiltonmla@)Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry>  
**Cc:** John Robinson <[johnrobinson@dup.org.uk](mailto:johnrobinson@dup.org.uk)>, DfE SpAd <[John.Robinson@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:John.Robinson@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, "Tweedie, Siobhan" <[Siobhan.Tweedie@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Siobhan.Tweedie@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, "McCoy, Laura" <[Laura.McCoy@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.McCoy@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, "Cousins, Heather" <[Heather.Cousins@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Cousins@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, "McCann, Brendan" <[Brendan.McCann@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Brendan.McCann@economy-ni.gov.uk)>, TEO HOCS <[hocs@ofmdfmni.gov.uk](mailto:hocs@ofmdfmni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Invest NI And Balcas

To be aware

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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**From:** Coyne, Terence <[Terence.Coyne@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Terence.Coyne@economy-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 December 2016 13:28  
**To:** Gaughran, Aine; Stewart, Chris (DFE); Marten, Lucy; Wightman, Stuart; McCormick, Andrew (DFE); McCann, Brendan  
**Cc:** McIlwrath, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Press query - Irish News FAO John

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Colleagues

**POL-00324**

Page 133 of the Invest NI Annual Report and Accounts for 2015-16 shows that Invest NI has an equity shareholding in Balcas. The link is below. Invest NI should be able to answer the query.

<https://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/annual-report-investni-2015-16.pdf>

Regards

Terry

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**From:** Gaughran, Aine  
**Sent:** 20 December 2016 13:04  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (DFE); Marten, Lucy; Wightman, Stuart; McCormick, Andrew (DFE); McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Cc:** McIlwrath, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Press query - Irish News FAO John

Thanks Chris – will do.

Áine

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**From:** Stewart, Chris (DFE)  
**Sent:** 20 December 2016 13:02  
**To:** Gaughran, Aine; Marten, Lucy; Wightman, Stuart; McCormick, Andrew (DFE); McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Cc:** McIlwrath, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Press query - Irish News FAO John

Aine

Try finance and Invest NI.

I'm not aware of the Department holding shares in this way. The references to DED suggest something pre devolution. Might the former IDB have taken an equity stake?

C

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**From:** Gaughran, Aine  
**Sent:** 20 December 2016 12:48  
**To:** Marten, Lucy; Wightman, Stuart; Stewart, Chris (DFE); McCormick, Andrew (DFE); McCann, Brendan; Coyne, Terence  
**Cc:** All DFE Branches Press Office; Gordon, David; McNabb, Chris; Craig, Erin; Irwin, James  
**Subject:** FW: Press query - Irish News FAO John

Hi All,

To see enquiry below from the Irish News – is this something we can answer – grateful for advice please.

Thanks.

Áine

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**From:** John Monaghan [<mailto:j.monaghan@irishnews.com>]

**Sent:** 20 December 2016 12:43

**To:** All DFE Branches Press Office

**Subject:** Press query - Irish News FAO John

Hi John,

My name is John Monaghan, I am a reporter with The Irish News, just following on from earlier phone call re Renewable Heat scheme.

I have a query concerning the former Department of Economic Development.

DED NI is listed as a shareholder in the Enniskillen based company Balcas, which is among the largest manufacturers and suppliers of biomass wood pellets. The company has also been involved in promoting the sale of biomass wood pellets to customers under the RHI scheme.

On the understanding that the activities of DED NI have been subsumed into the current Department for the Economy, I am just seeking to get comment on (a) when DED NI first became a shareholder in Balcas, (b) how many shares it currently holds in Balcas, and (c) why/on what basis it became a shareholder.

My deadline is 4pm this afternoon.

Regards,

John

T: 02890337544 (extension 555)

E: [j.monaghan@irishnews.com](mailto:j.monaghan@irishnews.com)