

**POL-00330**

**FW: RHI - 2013 consultants' report**

Clive McFarland

Sent: 30 December 2016 17:31

To: John Robinson

Attachments: DETI Development of Phase ~1.pdf (2 MB)

Was there a comment cleared in relation to this?

McBride running it tomorrow.

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

Mob: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

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**From:** Sam McBride [Sam.mcbride@newsletter.co.uk]

**Sent:** 28 December 2016 18:23

**To:** Clive McFarland

**Subject:** RHI - 2013 consultants' report

Hi Clive,

I don't need a response to this until tomorrow.

There was a June 2013 report on RHI conducted by consultants for DETI. I've attached a copy of the report to this email.

**When she was minister, did Arlene Foster or her Spad read this report?**

On page 66, of the report there is a section which deals with risks.

It refers to "the range of issues encountered by the non-domestic RHI to date" and then goes on to state under the headline "Useful heat" that: "With direct metering, properties may be heated to higher than best practice levels, windows opened, etc., if the tariff is tied to heat generated. In this case, the tariff could exceed operating costs."

**This shows that the department was aware of a key problem in the non-domestic scheme - boilers operated solely to get subsidies - by at least June 2013. Why was nothing done about this at that point?**

The same report said (page 59): "In short, if DETI is spending more than 4.2p/kWh, it is not going to be able to afford the 10% target with its assumed budget. In that regard, we note that many of the

**POL-00331**

tariffs in this report are above 4.2p. It may be that this budgetary barrier can be overcome as technologies reduce in price over time. However, at present the target looks extremely challenging from a budgetary perspective."

The rate was ultimately set at 6.2p/kWh for small biomass and 5.9p/kWh for medium biomass.

**Given the warning about the unaffordability of this, why did the minister or her Spad not intervene?**

Thanks,

Sam

--  
**Sam McBride**  
Political Editor  
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6-9 Donegall Square South  
Belfast BT1 5JA  
Direct line: 028 9089 7722  
Twitter: @SJAMcBride

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**Re: RHI - 2013 consultants' report**

Sam McBride [Sam.mcbride@newsletter.co.uk]

Sent: 29 December 2016 18:48

To: Clive McFarland

Thanks for letting me know, Clive.

As it happens, I've got bogged down further in declassified files than I'd expected so it won't get done in time for tomorrow's paper - I will do it tomorrow and am keen to have a proper response from you.

I'd asked the department as well but (not untypically) they haven't replied with a thing.

Sam

On Thu, Dec 29, 2016 at 6:42 PM, Clive McFarland <[clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk](mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk)> wrote:

Sam

Haven't got a response for this just yet.

Might get it sorted tonight or if not it should be sorted by tomorrow. Apologies for the delay.

Clive

Clive McFarland  
DUP Press Office

Tel: 02890 654479

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**POL-00333**

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**POL-00334**

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**Re: RHI - 2013 consultants' report**

John Robinson

Sent: 29 December 2016 10:43

To: Richard Bullick [richardbullick@  
Cc: Clive McFarland; Simon Hamilton; Timothy Johnston

I asked Andrew McC to check. He hoped to be back with an answer this morning.

I text earlier. He's still working on it.

John Robinson

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

On 28 Dec 2016, at 20:51, Richard Bullick <richardbullick@  
> wrote:

C

Need to get jr to check with dept.

R

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Dec 2016, at 20:47, Clive McFarland <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk> wrote:

See below from McBride.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Sam McBride" <Sam.mcbride@newsletter.co.uk>  
**To:** "Clive McFarland" <clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RHI - 2013 consultants' report

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**POL-00336**

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<DETI Development of Phase 2 of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (2).pdf>