

POL-00502

FW: Follow-up questions to your reponse

Clive McFarland

Sent: 18 January 2017 13:01

To: Richard Bullick [richardbullick@bbc.co.uk] Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry; Timothy Johnston; Simon Hamilton; John Robinson

Categories: Yellow Category

These are now the Nolan follow-up questions.

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From: David O'Dornan [David.O'Dornan@bbc.co.uk]

Sent: 18 January 2017 12:55

To: Clive McFarland

Subject: Follow-up questions to your reponse

Hi Clive,

We refer to the following statement from the DUP.

Statement from Simon Hamilton MLA and John Robinson.

"Prior to the 15 December when the BBC broadcast allegations of the involvement of DUP Special Advisers in preventing the introduction of cost controls for the non-domestic RHI scheme, Dr McCormick had not informed us of the name of any DUP Special Advisor that he believed to be seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter."

Q1.

We note how the DUP has stated that DR. McCormick did not inform the party of the name of any DUP Special Advisor that he believed to be seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter...

Does the DUP dispute that prior to 15 December 2016, whether he named the individual or not, Dr McCormick informed Simon Hamilton and John Robinson of the fact that he believed a DUP Special Advisor had been seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter of when cost controls for the non domestic RHI scheme should be introduced?

Q2.

Was Arlene Foster aware prior to the interview she gave the BBC on 15 December 2016 that Dr McCormick had informed a member or members of the DUP that he believed a DUP Special Advisor (whether a

specific name was given or not) had been seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter of when cost controls for the non domestic RHI scheme should be introduced?

Q3.

Was it ever suggested to Arlene Foster that Dr McCormick believed that Andrew Crawford was the DUP Special Advisor who had been seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter of when cost controls for the non domestic RHI scheme should be introduced?

Q4.

If so, did Arlene Foster know about Dr McCormick's belief referred to in question 3 above before she gave her speech to the assembly on 19 December 2016?

Q5.

Is Simon Hamilton prepared to give Andrew McCormick permission to speak freely and openly to Stephen Nolan in a BBC interview so that the public can learn the totality of what Dr McCormick believes?

I'd be grateful if you could give me a response by 6pm or as close to that as possible for you, in advance of tomorrow's programme.

Kind regards,

David

David O'Dornan
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From: Clive McFarland [mailto:clivemcfarland@dup.org.uk]
Sent: 17 January 2017 22:10
To: David O'Dornan
Subject: RE: Urgent questions for DUP members

David,
Apologies for the lateness - things are obviously incredibly busy.

I will follow up with a response on the Irish Language Act stuff too. Would be useful to know what if any of these things the show intends to run with.

Clive

Statement from Simon Hamilton MLA and John Robinson.

"Prior to the 15 December when the BBC broadcast allegations of the involvement of DUP

Special Advisers in preventing the introduction of cost controls for the non-domestic RHI scheme, Dr McCormick had not informed us of the name of any DUP Special Advisor that he believed to be seeking to offer advice or exert influence over the matter.

Since the allegations aired on the 15 December, Dr McCormick has subsequently informed us that it was his understanding that a DUP Special Advisor who was not the then DETI Special Advisor was involved in the summer of 2015 but that he had no evidence to substantiate this."

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From: David O'Dornan [David.ODornan@bbc.co.uk]

Sent: 17 January 2017 12:05

To: Clive McFarland

Subject: Urgent questions for DUP members

Dear Clive,

Simon Hamilton has called for transparency around RHI, as has your party leader Arlene Foster.

Indeed, yesterday at Stormont he reiterated that he had been consistent in saying "the truth of what went wrong with the scheme should be revealed".

He also added he wanted to see the maximum amount of confidence given to the public and that he wants "to see the truth come out".

With this in mind, can you answer the following questions:

SIMON HAMILTON

1. Did Andrew McCormick tell you that a DUP Special Adviser (Spad) had advised or influenced that the lucrative part of the RHI scheme be kept open?
2. Did Andrew McCormick provide a name as to who this DUP Spad might be?

JOHN ROBINSON

1. Did Andrew McCormick tell you that a DUP Special Adviser (Spad) had advised or influenced that the lucrative part of the RHI scheme be kept open?
2. Did Andrew McCormick provide a name as to who this DUP Spad might be?

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Please confirm receipt of this email. Please respond with answers to these questions by 5pm today.

Kind regards,

David

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Inquiry