



Eoin Rooney <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

For Discussion

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir <mairtin@newbelfast.com>

16 January 2017 at 08:27

To: Ted Howell <ted.howell@sinnfein.ie>, Aidan McAteer <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry Eoin Rooney

Cc: Padraic Wilson

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Proposed Party Approach to RHI

1. We do not vote for RHI regulations but allow them to go through on basis that as a one-year solution (and this chimes with my legal and financial advice and my own judgement) is that it works.

A. He did not release the names of beneficiaries in order to build confidence in solution among public (though Simon has asked to meet me later today on this issue).

B. It is not the full and comprehensive solution which could have been brought forward by DUP Economy Ministers over the past year but an interim one-year solution. It is not a no-cost solution as Arlene Foster promised. It gives us a year breathing space but leaves the following 18 years to be sorted out.

C. I have won a number of enhancements from Economy to move it, in so far as is possible, from a sticking plaster to a tourniquet. These include embedding a Department of Finance official in the RHI team in Economy and getting a commitment to fast-track inspections to remove those abusing the scheme. I have ensured by insisting on additional safety nets and guarantees of oversight that it will work as a temporary solution to give us a reprieve until November. But I am being honest with the public, we are deferring the problem when we should have been sorting it out once and for all if the DUP had done their work correctly.

ACTIONS

My officials will write to Economy with a list of demands around additional safety nets this morning, I am told he will accept all except beneficiaries publication which to date he has refused to do.

I could brief Naomi Long as well.



Eoin Rooney <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

Lines on RHI for Discussion

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir <mairtin@newbelfast.com>

16 January 2017 at 10:25

To: Ted Howell <ted.howell@sinnfein.ie>

Cc: Aidan McAteer <[redacted]@sinnfein.ie> Seán Mag Uidhir <[redacted]@sinnfein.ie> Eoin Rooney <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

I will shortly sign off a submission from officials agreeing that the interim solution of Simon Hamilton stacks up and I will agree with their conclusion.

At that point, we can not vote against RHI regulations.

PR POINTS

1. I am disappointed that these proposals stop well short of the zero cost permanent solution the public was promised. Instead, we have a one-year plan which will save some monies next year while kicking the can down the road into 2018 with uncertainty over the following 18 years.
2. There is a lack of confidence in the Minister's approach which is only exacerbated by the refusal to release the names of the beneficiaries.
3. I have ensured by insisting on additional safety nets and guarantees of oversight that it will work as a temporary solution to give us a reprieve until November. In particular we need to fast-track inspections and weed out those abusing the scheme. But I am being honest with the public, we are deferring the problem when we should have been sorting it out once and for all if the DUP had done their work correctly.
4. This isn't a sticking plaster, I have made sure it has been strengthened and am confident it will work as a stop-gap but neither is it a full solution. It is a stopgap in order to protect the public purse. Ultimately, it's a long way off what the public need and deserve to bring the RHI debacle to a close but it is better than nothing and I will not oppose.



Eoin Rooney <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

RHI

Eoin Rooney <eoin.rooney@sinnfein.ie>

16 January 2017 at 11:38

To: Michelle O'Neill Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

We said we would only accept a comprehensive response to the RHI scandal.
A vital element of that is disclosing the names of beneficiaries.
This is necessary to discourage abuse and to bring much needed transparency to the scheme.
We will not agree to a piecemeal solution. The names of scheme beneficiaries must be disclosed.

Subject: Re: Suggested Tweet

Date: Dé Luain 16 Eanáir 2017 20:00:18 Meán-Am Greenwich

From: Ted Howell

To: Mairtin O'Muilleoir

Mgl.Ok with me.Forgot to lite my six boilers this morning for my cactus

On Mon, 16 Jan 2017 at 19:58, Mairtin O'Muilleoir <m.omuilleoir@belfastmediagroup.com>

wrote:

Suspended RHI discussion for a week. Works very well for us. M

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Jan 2017, at 19:53, Seán Mag Uidhir

Personal information redacted by the RHI
Inquiry

wrote:

I'm ok with this

On Mon, Jan 16, 2017 at 7:49 PM, Mairtin O'Muilleoir

<m.omuilleoir@belfastmediagroup.com> wrote:

Scrutiny of RHI 'interim solution' will continue tomorrow when I meet my officials. I refused to sign off on plan today. Many questions remain.

Something like that. M

Subject: Re: Revised Lines on RHI for Discussion and My comments in chamber

Date: Dé Luain 16 Eanáir 2017 12:05:01 Meán-Am Greenwich

From: Ted Howell

To: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

MGL a chara.Ok by me.

On Mon, 16 Jan 2017 at 11:58, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir <mairtin@newbelfast.com> wrote:

The public will be disgusted that one year after the DUP were first told to come forward with a zero-cost comprehensive plan to close down RHI for 20 years, they have instead come forward with a one-year plan. The can is being kicked down the road for one year leaving no certainty over the next 18 years.

It is absolutely shameful that DUP ineptitude cock-up and arrogance allowed this scheme to continue to bleed £85,000 a day from the public purse. Those losses under this stopgap solution will continue until 1 April 2017.

This is not a zero-cost solution, with inspections and losses, the public can expect to lose at least £5m in the coming financial year.

We should not lose sight of the allegations of abuse around this scheme, it is vital that Minister Hamilton releases the names of the beneficiaries. His failure to do so undermines confidence in this stopgap solution.

HOWEVER:

I have ensured by insisting on additional safety nets and guarantees of oversight that it will work as a temporary solution to give us a reprieve until November. In particular we need to fast-track inspections and weed out those abusing the scheme.

SF has decided not to oppose this plan in order to protect the public purse but I want to send out a clear message that just as with the No Hiding Place investigation into the RHI scandal, there will also need to be a full solution to the RHI losses.