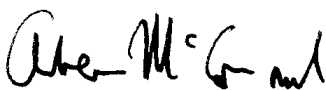


From: [McCormick, Andrew \(DFE\)](#)
To: [TEO HOCS](#)
Subject: 2017 03 28 10.30 RHI Emails - Meeting with HOCS
Date: 29 March 2017 14:30:42
Attachments: [2017 03 28 10.30 RHI Emails - Meeting with HOCS.docx](#)

As discussed. Many thanks.

NOTE FOR THE RECORD**RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE: NEWLY DISCOVERED EMAILS**

1. After the G2/G3 Meeting in Castle Buildings on 28 March 2016, I briefed Malcolm McKibbin on four emails that had come to light, mainly in the course of the work to identify documents to be provided to the Public Inquiry. These were:
 - a. an email from Timothy Cairns to Andrew Crawford of 12 August 2015, in relation to the options for tariff reduction in the RHI scheme in the summer of 2015. This had already come to attention following an FoI request to DAERA, but had also been found in the DoF SpAd email account and had been included in DoF's S21 disclosure to the Inquiry;
 - b. on 3 August 2015, Howard Hastings had forwarded to Andrew Crawford an email from BSH Limited, which referred to the possible tariff reductions, possible abuse of the scheme, and hinted at an approach the Hastings Group might want to consider to pre-empt the tariff changes. I have referred this email to my Internal Auditor and the RHI Task Force to ensure that all appropriate action is taken;
 - c. An email from Andrew Crawford to a Richard Crawford, understood based on a previous conversation with Timothy Johnston, to be a cousin of Andrew's, forwarding the DETI submission of 8 July 2015 setting out the proposals for tariff reduction. DfE had previously identified the applications to the RHI scheme from Richard Crawford; and
 - d. a third email from Janette O'Hagan – DfE had previously found two emails dated 26 August 2013, one to the Department and one to Minister Foster's private email address, the latter containing a low key reference to RHI. The second email had been passed by Minister Foster to her Private Office but had not been seen by Energy Division. The third email, dated 3 September 2013, and also sent to Minister Foster's private email address, had come to us for the first time on 21 March 2017 from the Assembly PAC secretariat as part of an FoI request they were dealing with. It included a reference to alleged misuse of the RHI scheme. DfE has checked the Private Office records and there is no evidence that the third email was ever sent to DETI.
2. I had discussed the handling of the first three emails mentioned above with Hugh Widdis and David Sterling the previous day, and in light of that discussion, I advised Malcolm that no additional action was appropriate over and above the steps we had already taken ie:
 - a. Ensuring that the documents had been sent to the Inquiry; and
 - b. The DfE action point as at paragraph 1 (b) above.



ANDREW McCORMICK
29 March 2017