

Patsy McGlone

From: Patsy McGlone MLA <patsymcglone@parliament.ie>
Sent: 17 September 2012 18:57
To: Jim McMANUS
Subject: Fw: Ministers urged to announce RHI as a lifeline for local SME's

Jim, can you place on agenda for Thursday please. Patsy
 Patsy McGlone MLA

From: "Julie McCabe" <julie.mccabe@parliament.ie>
Date: Mon, 17 Sep 2012 14:50:20 +0100
To: <patsymcglone@parliament.ie>
Subject: Ministers urged to announce RHI as a lifeline for local SME's

Hi Patsy

I hope you are keeping well.

Please find below a press release from my client Brian Hood from BS Holdings who is calling for the Energy and Finance Ministers to urgently announce the launch of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme which will significantly help local SME's. This call for action comes in light of the FG Wilson announcement as Brian believes that the RHI scheme can act as a lifeline for local companies.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on

Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Kind Regards

Julie

RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE NEEDED NOW TO HELP LOCAL SME'S

In light of the recent news about FG Wilson, local company BS Holdings which specialises in heating engineering solutions has called upon Energy Minister Arlene Foster and Finance Minister Sammy Wilson to urgently announce the launch of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) as a lifeline for local SME's.

The RHI scheme offers long term financial incentives to help those wishing to install renewable energy technologies including biomass boilers to heat their properties. The financial incentives run for 20 years which in turn helps to significantly reduce fuel bills and the amount of time for the organisation to receive full 'pay back' on the cost of the installation.

Brian Hood, Managing Director, BS Holdings comments, "Local SME's are struggling at this time and if companies can reduce their fuel bills then this will improve their cash flow. The RHI scheme is vital and is needed now as it has the potential to help local SME's save money. This is also the start of the heating season and is the time when everyone starts to turn on their heating appliances so now is when it can make the most difference."

It was recently documented that Minister Foster would be seeking to put the legislation in place to enable the RHI to launch in the early autumn but as yet no further information has been released. The launch of the RHI, in conjunction with the grant support already in place for domestic customers, represents £25million of funding to 2015.

"If SME's can obtain a means of reducing their heating bills by up to 40% against some fossil fuels, this will help Director's manage their cash flow, help business owners be more comfortable with dwindling business prospects and would encourage businesses to put those funds saved on heating fuels, to better use throughout their business. Had

FG Wilson been able to avail of this scheme last year when it was launched elsewhere, perhaps the savings made, could have helped reduce the redundancy levels within the company.”

“Even today we wait to hear when the scheme will be launched in Northern Ireland, whilst ministers debate, businesses continue to fail and falter. On Friday it was announced by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment that they are just beginning a consultant process in which responses are to be made before 18th Oct 2012. A ministerial statement made in July has taken almost two months to filter through departments of government and the prospect of having SME’s being able to take advantage of direct fuel savings and subsidy income streams will probably have been lost for another winter, meanwhile businesses like FG Wilson continue to struggle and the economy suffers the fallout. The politicians must make a better effort, we hear talk of economic meetings to come but what we have available already banked by the NI Executive from the EU is not being spent rather it waits on our Departments rewriting legislation already enacted in the UK, why?” says Brian.

Ends.

Visit www.bsholdingsltd.com for further company information.

For further information please contact Julie McCabe at Massive PR on [julie](mailto:julie@massivepr.tv)

Personal information
redacted by the RHI
Inquiry

/ 02890 240250 or email

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Inquiry

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Patsy McGlone

From: Patsy McGlone MLA <patSYMCGlone@sdLP.ie> [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Sent: 05 November 2012 14:33
To: Patsy McGlone
Subject: Re: meeting

Yep, no point in me going to Stormont to turn and come back again;) Patsy McGlone MLA

From: "Patsy Mc Glone" <patSYMCGlone@sdLP.ie> [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Date: Mon, 5 Nov 2012 14:31:14 -0000
To: 'Patsy McGlone' <patSYMCGlone@sdLP.ie> [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Subject: RE: meeting

In cookstown?

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Patsy McGlone [mailto:patSYMCGlone@sdLP.ie] [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Sent: 05 November 2012 14:30
To: Patsy McGlone
Subject: Fwd: meeting

Brendan, we could maybe fit this man in tomorrow morning as i'll be going to the funeral at 1.00. Thanks, Patsy

Patsy McGlone MLA
Telephone 028867 58175 (office)
[Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry] (mobile)

Begin forwarded message:

From: <brian@sdLP.ie> [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Date: 5 November 2012 08:03:56 GMT
To: <patSYMCGlone@sdLP.ie> [Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Subject: meeting

Brendan

We are free tomorrow up to 3pm or wed-fri anytime that would suit patsy.

Looking forward to whenever suits his diary for the meeting

regards

Brian Hood

Personal information redacted by the
RHI Inquiry

Patsy McGlone

From: Patsy McGlone MLA <patsymcglone@patsymcglone.com> Personal information redacted by the
Sent: 05 December 2012 16:48
To: Brian Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Subject: Delivered: RE: Written Answer AQW 17011/11-15 - Northern Ireland Community Safety College
Attachments: details.txt

Your message was delivered to the recipient.
Patsy McGlone MLA

details.txt

Original-Message-ID:2147487691

Final-Recipient:patsymcglone Personal information redacted by the R

Action:Delivered

Patsy McGlone

From: Patsy McGlone MLA <patSYMCGlone@personal information redacted by the R
Sent: 11 February 2014 09:58
To: Sheena Jackson; Martin McAuley; Suzanne Collins
Subject: Fw: APWGoC meeting agenda: Tuesday 11 February 2014
Attachments: 131203APWGoCmin draft.pdf; 140211APWGoCagenda.pdf

Good morning,

Patsy asked me to forward across the agenda for the APWGoC which is at 12.30 today- he will no doubt be looking for a statement later on.

Thanks,

Joanne

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Fiona Taggart info@gpani.org
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2014, 16:20:16
Subject: APWGoC meeting agenda: Tuesday 11 February 2014



CIG CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY
GROUP

An Essential Industry... creating immediate solutions

Dear APWGoC Member

Please find attached the agenda and the December 2013 draft minutes for the APWGoC meeting next Tuesday in room 144 Parliament Buildings at 12.30.

Light refreshments will be available.

As usual I would be grateful if you could confirm your availability to attend.

Kind regards
Fiona

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The 23rd Meeting of the
Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Working Group on Construction
Tuesday 3rd December 2013
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Present:

Patsy McGlone	MLA, SDLP
Paul Frew	MLA, DUP
David Ford	Minister for Justice
Danny Kennedy	Minister for Regional Development
Edwin Poots	Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Barry McElduff	MLA, SF
Sandra Overend	MLA, UUP
Fearghal McKinney	MLA, SDLP
Dolores Kelly	MLA, SDLP
Neil Johnston	RICS
Alfie Watterson	CIGNI/ ECA
Gordon Best	CIGNI/ QPANI
Ciaran Fox	CEF
Kevin McShane	CIGNI/ ICE
Jennie Donald	NIFHA
Louise Ward	CIGNI/FMB
George Heaney	University of Ulster
Cecilia Keaveney	CIH
Joanne Harte	SDLP
Carol McTaggart	Clanmill
Harvey Moffatt	CIH
Derek Martin	CIGNI/ CEF
David Fry	CBI
Leo Bagnall	CIGNI
John McCormick	CIGNI/ ACE
Stephen Kane	CIGNI
Brett Hannam	SIB
David Carson	CPD
Ambrose Tohill	CPD
William Kerr	DRD Roads Service
Jonathan Saulters	DRD Roads Service
Bill Gowdy	NI Water
Stewart Barnes	DRD
Brian Hood	SEC Group
John McGrath	DE
Philip Irwin	DE
Brendan Smyth	DHSSPS
Basil McCrea	MLA, NI21
Phil Flanagan	MLA, SF

In attendance:

Fiona Taggart	QPANI
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1. Chairman's welcome:

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He thanked Ministers Ford, Kennedy and Poots and the representatives of the Department for Education for taking the time to attend the

meeting. The Chair proposed that the format of the meeting be a brief update from Ministers followed by a question and answer session under item 6.

2. Apologies:

Roy Beggs	MLA, UUP
John Armstrong	CIGNI/ CEF (represented by Ciaran Fox)
Jim Crooks	CIGNI
Clive Grudgings	CIGNI/ QPANI
George Coulter	CIGNI
Maire Nawaz	CIGNI/ FMB
David Little	NHBC
Donal MacRandal	CPD
Colin McCarthy	CIGNI/ CSANI

3. Review of previous minutes:

The minutes from the meeting of the 17 September 2013 were agreed as accurate.

The amendment proposed by CF at the September meeting (item 9.3 should have read "slowdown on output" rather than "unemployment") has been updated in the minutes of 25 June 2013.

4. Matters arising:

Previous minutes Item 4.1 and 8: CPD to forward details of CPD projects which include Project Bank Accounts and also look at recent procurements commenced by Health Estates Investment Group (HEIG) which use Lowest Price as the basis of contact award.

AT confirmed that this information had been forwarded to PMcG/cc FT on the 26 November 2013. FT apologised this had not been picked up and the response will be circulated with the draft minutes of this meeting.

5. Correspondence:

The response from the DHSSPS Minister regarding the letter from PMcG to Minister Hamilton in relation to the procurement of Frameworks for Consultancy Services in connection with Minor Works Schemes was circulated for information.

6. Discussion with each Minister on their ideas and proposals to make the commissioning, procurement and delivery of infrastructure projects quicker:

Due to time constraints the discussion points under item 6 were dealt with through updates from each Department followed by a question and answer session.

Department for Regional Development:

Minister Ford noted the progress of the Police and Fire Training College in Cookstown and that work on the new laboratory for Forensic Science Northern Ireland would be underway in the near future. On a smaller scale, he also advised that there were a number of projects relating to Maghaberry Prison and Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and Prison.

Department for Regional Development:

Minister Kennedy thanked the Chair for the invitation and commended the work of the APWGoC welcoming the engagement with Industry. Good progress is being made on the A8 and A2 projects. He advised that the A5 project is delayed rather than abandoned; no timeframe is currently available as the Department are working through a number of requirements. He confirmed the A31 Magherafelt by-pass and A26 Frosses Road dual carriageway schemes should be out by late 2014 and funding has been provided to advance the A6 scheme within 2014/2015. The Department continues to work to improve connectivity province wide. Minister Kennedy also provided a summary of Structural Maintenance funding and improvement schemes.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

Minister Poots stated there are currently 15 projects worth £276 million which will be progressed in the next 2 years. £187 million will be spent on general maintenance of the Health Estate while additional funds from the October Monitoring Round have secured £15.5 million towards the Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The Minister also noted that the Department had utilised matched EU funding to support a number of schemes.

Department of Education:

John McGrath thanked the Chair for the opportunity to attend. He advised a restricted Capital Budget has had a dampening effect on the build programme with 18 new build projects last year and 22 new build projects in the last few months. The delay in momentum of major builds has meant focus has shifted to minor works. The Department has had no returns or underspend.

Question and answer session:

It was suggested there is a perception of multiple announcement of build schemes demonstrating considerable slippage on a number of school building projects. Department of Education representatives responded that in a couple of cases schemes had not been sufficiently worked up in planning terms while there had also been legal challenges to some projects, however the Minister intends to address these concerns as a priority.

Will Departments be using Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) on any major projects and will there be increased use of Private Investment?

Health Estates are currently trialling PBAs and their use has also been agreed by parties involved with the Desertcreat project. With regard to the EU Investment Bank, Minister Poots stated that it is important to investigate every funding opportunity and his Department has also trialled a couple of projects for Private Finance.

Will any projects avail of the UK Guarantee Scheme and do Departments intend to bid for this funding? Are there any mechanisms to develop collaborative working between Departments, especially for Social Housing?

Minister Kennedy advised there are currently no plans to bid for this as it is not directly relevant to publicly funded projects. In terms of collaboration he recognised there has been valid criticism but noted that all Departments seek to maximise collaboration.

Minister Ford stated that Private Funding is not necessarily suitable for the complexities of the Prison Programme at present but the Department is keen to keep an eye on possible funding routes.

Minister Poots noted that there is a need for Housing Associations, DSD etc. to collaborate to provide clarity for those entering major contracts to ensure they will have an end user once the project is delivered. He confirmed that his Department are not currently looking at the EU Investment Bank as it is for major projects.

Brett Hannam highlighted it is difficult to design, prioritise, budget and schedule across Departments but noted a number of good examples of collaboration such as the Colin Neighbourhood Regeneration project.

Concerns were raised regarding the length of time between announcement and getting work on the ground and also if there are any powers of recovery or possibility of retrospective payment for sub-contractors.

John McGrath responded that some schemes are quite far back in the planning process resulting in long lead in times. He acknowledged that delivery mechanisms within the Department of Education are not what they should be and highlighted the Ministers intention and the considerable amount of work being done to address this and speed up delivery.

Minister Poots stated that in terms of retrospective payment transactions are between Departments and the main contractor and the sub-contractor is not currently the Department's responsibility, however care needs to be taken when taking on main contractors. He also stated that Industry needs to bear some responsibility as due to a number of legal challenges to projects the Department has now been forced to go with the lowest tender.

In relation to the slippage of school projects it was noted that standardised designs for schools are being investigated to speed up delivery.

What ideas would Ministers have to speed up the commissioning process and to have business cases advanced much faster than at present?

Minister Ford pointed to a clear case for DFP involvement while Minister Kennedy noted the difference between projects being procurement ready and shovel ready. Minister Poots noted that iterations with business cases can delay work often with little added value.

Brett Hannam pointed to a number of practical steps which could be taken to reduce repetition e.g. involving Economists in the development of the business case rather than passing it on for review, getting the business case right first time or ensuring the business case is right in a strategic context so that DFP do not need to come back with fundamental questions.

GB thanked Ministers and representatives for attending and commented that from a supply side there is a feeling that the arrows are starting to align positively. He recognised the value PBAs and prompt payment will bring and enquired what Ministers can do to stop tenders going down the lowest common denominator route? KMcS enquired if Ministers would support the creation of a new Design and Build Department.

Minister Kennedy responded that Departments use CPD and are guided by standards, it is important to ensure that projects deliver on both design and cost.

Minister Ford commented that while not perfect a lot has been learned about appropriate scoring matrices to balance cost and quality and he questioned the value of a centralised procurement agency as Departments are very capable of handling many smaller projects. A sound business case would have to be made for a Design and Build Department.

CF advised that Industry has agreed a mechanism for the exclusion of abnormally low tenders and expressed disappointment that DRD had opted out of the below level approach. Minister Kennedy stated he was happy to reflect of CFs comments and may discuss the matter further. CF pointed out that it is not industry that makes the challenge but individual companies and an excellent solution to this is close, ongoing engagement with Industry prior to tender.

GH commented that challenges are not something the Industry can address as a group but there is a good sector here. He challenged all in the room to look at how Industry and Government can work together better and noted that the Industry is keen to support this approach.

CF noted that it is probable the A5 and A6 schemes will be shovel ready in a similar time frame and a point for Industry is that the 2 schemes will not run parallel so which will go ahead. Minister Kennedy responded that due to a number of complex issues it was not possible to indicate timescales on these.

7. Verbal report form Industry Representatives on the state of the NI construction market:

The item was not addressed directly but covered under general meeting discussions.

8. AOB:

8.1 BMcE proposed that the Departments who had been unable to attend be invited to a future meeting on an individual basis, in particular the Finance and DETI Ministers. The proposal from the September meeting to invite NAMA and Ulster Bank representatives to the APWGoC meeting was carried forward for the next meeting. PMcG commented it would be useful to invite the Utility Regulator as well.

CMcT noted it was positive to hear the Ministers support for a joined up approach and enquired if Departments could identify a senior level representative to intervene to unblock current processes. Brett Hannam indicated there was no specific work underway at present but he would be happy to meet outside the APWGoC forum or for it to be added to a future agenda if required. GH recommended looking at Revenue spend as well as Capital spend. CMcT suggested looking at the whole procurement process to remove gold-plating and speed up procurement.

8.2 Derek Martin, CIGNI Chairman, commended the 'Actions for Recovery' publication to the group and the document was circulated.

9. Proposed dates of 2014 meetings: All meetings proposed for Tuesday at 12.30pm - 11 February/24 June /16 September /2 December.

The Chair again thanked the Ministers and Department of Education representatives for their attendance and input into the ongoing work before the APWGoC. He also thanked APWGoC Members and Guests for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at 1.55pm.

	Action Summary	
Item	Action	Owner
4.1	FT to forward the CPD response to queries raised at the September 2013 APWGoC meeting with the December 2013 APWGoC draft minutes	FT
6.3	Representatives from NAMA and Ulster Bank to be invited to a future APWGoC	PMcG
7	PMcG to co-ordinate with DFP and DETI to attend a future meeting on an individual basis to address concerns on delivery of key projects	PMcG
	Unresolved actions 17 September 2013 meeting	
4.2	Discussion on Preliminary Investigation into over-pricing/ over-charging to be added to December agenda	FT
6.3	Jim Wilkinson to follow up request to Minister to obtain legal opinion on the appropriateness of negotiated design and build below EU thresholds and feedback to APWGoC	JW

Fiona Taggart
Quarry Products Association NI
Wednesday 4 December 2013.

