

THE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE NON-DOMESTIC  
RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI) SCHEME

DATE: 16 May 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF JANETTE O'HAGAN  
IN RESPONSE TO WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW MCCORMICK  
DATED 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018

I, Janette O'Hagan of Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry will say as follows :-

1. This is the second Witness Statement that I have made in relation to the inquiry. I make this Statement in response to the Statement provided by Andrew McCormick dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 relating to the issues on publicity in December 2016.
2. I have already provided my oral statement and evidence to the Inquiry. I did not anticipate providing a further statement but do so as there are a number of statements made in Mr. McCormick's affidavit which I maintain are inaccurate. I do however welcome the apology provided by Mr. McCormick on behalf of the Department.
3. As outlined in my previous Statement and evidence provided to the Inquiry, I recall the telephone call from Mr. Brendan McCann on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 very clearly. In the first instance, I maintain that Terry Coyne cannot possibly provide an accurate and complete account of the telephone conversation, having only heard Mr. McCann's side of the conversation.
4. I refer to paragraph 10 of Mr. McCormick's Statement. In this paragraph he states that he asked Mr. McCann to contact me to establish:
 

"a. Whether the email we had found was the same as that sent to Arlene Foster's constituency office"

I was not asked by Mr. McCann about the content of the emails and whether these were the same.
5. I was not asked by Mr. McCann whether I had any concerns about the Minister releasing my email. As previously set out in my earlier statement, I was told by Brendan McCann that he thought "the DUP might release my email". I understood this to be a "heads up" and not that he was seeking my consent on behalf of the DUP, the Minister or any other person or body.
6. It is therefore completely incorrect to suggest at paragraph 11(a) of Mr. McCormick's statement that I indicated that the content of the email to the Department was the same as the email written to Arlene Foster and sent to her constituency office. I did not make any comment, nor was I asked about whether the content was the same. I did indicate that I would check if there were additional emails when I had access again to my computer and that I believed there were additional emails. He asked me to forward them when I had further access to my computer.
7. It is incorrect to suggest at paragraph 11(b) that I was asked whether I had any concerns about the Minister (underlining my emphasis) releasing my email. I do not recall that the Minister was even mentioned during the telephone call.

8. In relation to paragraph 13 of Mr. McCormick's Statement, this is not a fair reflection of my position. In particular, I did indicate to Mr. McCann during the phone call on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 that there were likely additional emails. I did not understand that there would be disclosure by the Minister.
9. Mr. McCormick suggests at paragraph 14 that the distinction between Department for the Economy in providing support to the Minister and any role on behalf of the DUP appeared "at best blurred" in my view and that this was understandable. The reality is that they only became blurred with me at the point when a conversation with a representative of the Department for the Economy directly led to the DUP releasing my email to the media on the same day for purely political purposes.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: *Janette O'Hagan*

Dated: *24/5/18*