

Central Management Branch
Geraldine Fee



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Our references:
DAERA/2017-0019
DAERA/2017-0020
DAERA/2017-0021

Date: 28th June 2017

Dear

Freedom of Information/Environmental Information requests

Thank you for your emails of 7 January 2017 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act. We have identified this as information that falls under the Environmental Information Regulations. I apologise for the delay in providing this information.

You asked for:

DAERA/2017-0019

- *Copies of all recorded material (electronic or otherwise) to and from Andrew Crawford, including material in official and private email accounts, which make reference to the renewable heat Incentive Scheme.*

DAERA/2017-0020

- *Copies of all recorded material (electronic or otherwise) to and from Michelle McIlveen, including material in official and private email accounts, which make reference to the renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, and*
- *Copies of all notes and minutes of meetings (electronic or otherwise) between Michelle McIlveen, Special Advisers, Civil Servants and others in relation to the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.*

DAERA/2017-0021

- *Copies of all recorded material (electronic or otherwise) to and from Michelle O'Neill, including material in official and private email accounts, which make reference to the renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, and*

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



- *Copies of all notes and minutes of meetings (electronic or otherwise) between Michelle O'Neill, Special Advisers, Civil Servants and others in relation to the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.*

I can confirm that the Department has completed its search and holds the information you have requested.

The names and addresses of private individuals and of civil servants at non-executive level have been redacted in accordance with Regulation 12(3) and 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The enclosed Fairness Test explains the rationale applied.

Some of the information requested is already available by other means and therefore has not been included in accordance with Regulation 6(1)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Links to this information are included on the Schedule of Records attached.

Some of the information requested has been withheld under the terms of the exception in Regulation 12(4)(e) of the EIR (internal communications). The enclosed Public Interest Test explains the rationale for this decision.

A copy of the information which can be disclosed is enclosed.

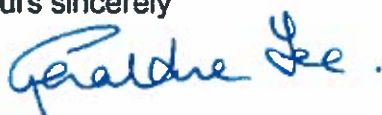
In relation to your request for material in private email accounts I can confirm that the three individuals of this request were contacted as the Department does not hold this information. If they held the information they were asked to provide it within a specified timeframe otherwise I would presume they did not hold any information relating to the RHI scheme in their private email accounts. This period has passed without responses being received therefore I have concluded that they do not hold any information relating to the RHI scheme in their private email accounts.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request for information has been handled, or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please write to the Review Section, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Information Management Branch, Room 507, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB, within two months from the date of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number(s) above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



GERALDINE FEE
Director, Corporate Services

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