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**THE FUTURE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND NON-DOMESTIC RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE SCHEME**

**Question and answer template**

**How to respond**

This public consultation is open until 5 pm on 6 September 2018. Throughout this document a number of issues have been specifically highlighted for comment and feedback. Your response will be most useful if it is framed in direct response to the questions posed, though further comments and evidence are also welcome.

We encourage respondents to make use of the e-Consultation platform to respond to this consultation wherever possible and this is the Department’s preferred method of receiving responses. This platform can be found at https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/future-of-the-ni-ndrhi

However, responses submitted in writing or by email will also be accepted. Email responses to this consultation should be sent to RHI.Consultation2018@economy-ni.gov.uk.

Alternatively you may post your response to the Department at:

Non-Domestic NIRHI Scheme Consultation

RHI Taskforce

Department for the Economy

Netherleigh

Massey Avenue

Belfast

BT4 2JP

If you require an alternative format (Braille, audio, CD, etc.), please contact the Department on 0300 200 7835 and appropriate arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

A Privacy Notice, which sets out what we will do with information that you provide to us, is attached at Annex A.

**Personal Details**

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| What is your name? (**required response**) |
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| What is your email address? |
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| If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of your organisation or company. |
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| Are you a beneficiary of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic RHI scheme? (**required response**) |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes 🞏 No  |

**Questions on public interest and rationale for introducing the 2017 Regulations**

Please note that the response boxes are expandable to allow you to provide as much evidence as possible.

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| **Question 1:** Do you believe that it is the Department’s responsibility to encourage investment in renewable heat? (**required response**)  |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 No🞏 Not sureIf so, in what form should that encouragement take? (**required response**) |
| **Question 2:** What rate of return on capital investment in biomass boilers do you think is a reasonable rate of return for installation owners? (**required response**) |
| Please give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer. (**required response**) |
| **Question 3:** Should funding for the NIRHI Scheme be limited to, at most, funding available from the UK Government without impacting on the Northern Ireland block grant? (**required response**) |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 No🞏 Not surePlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer. (**Required response**) |
| **Question 4:** Please outline the impacts on your business of the tiered tariff and cap under the 2017 and 2018 legislation.  |
| Please give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer. |

**Question on options for tariff structure - biomass tariffs**

Please note that the response boxes are expandable to allow you to provide as much evidence as possible.

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| **Question 5**: Which biomass tariff option do you support for the long-term future of the NIRHI Scheme?(**required response**) |
| *Select only one item***** Option 1 - Tariff structure under the 2017 and 2018 legislation is not continued **** Option 2 - Retain tariff structure under the 2017 and 2018 legislation **** Option 3 - Revert to original tariff structure under 2012 Regulations (including post 18 November 2015 installations)**** Option 4 – Adopt the base tariff structure proposed in the Ricardo Tariff Review (the ‘Tariff Review)**** Option 5 – Adopt the tariff structure from the Tariff Review excluding fuel Costs**** Option 6 - Adopt the hybrid tariff structure from the Tariff Review **** Option 7 - Adopt the current GB tariff structure**** Option 8 – Adopt the tariff structure for entrants to the GB Scheme in autumn 2015Please give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer including any anticipated economic impact and, where appropriate, the effect on your business as a participant. (**required response**) |
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**Questions on options for tariff structure - other elements**

Please note that the response boxes are expandable to allow you to provide as much evidence as possible.

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| **Question 6:** What measure, if any, should the Department use for inflationary uplifts?  |
| *Select only one item***** Option 1 – No change (continue to use RPI)**** Option 2 – Use the Consumer Prices Index**** Option 3 – No inflationary upliftPlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer.  |
| **Question 7:** What are your views on a compulsory buy-out of the Scheme? (**required response**) |
| Please give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer. (**required response**) |
| **Question 8:** Do you support the principle of a voluntary buy-out? (**required response**) |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 No🞏 Not surePlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer. (**required response**) |
| **Question 9:** Would you support the introduction of a further tariff band within the 20 - 90 kW range**?** |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 NoPlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer including any experience relevant to other boiler sizes within the 20 – 90 kW range of boiler sizes. |
| **Question 10:** Do you support the principle of a cap being set at 300,000 kWh? |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 NoPlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer including any additional information to inform annual usage levels. |
| **Question 11:** Please identify any other issues relating to other technologies which would be relevant in any tariff evaluation. Please provide any evidence you may have that the costs of running small heat pumps are higher than the tariffs. |
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**Question on proposals for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants**

Please note that the response boxes are expandable to allow you to provide as much evidence as possible.

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| **Question 12a:** Do you consider that a public subsidy is required for CHP plants?  |
| *Select only one item*🞏 Yes🞏 NoPlease give reasons and any supporting evidence for your answer.  |
| **Question 12b:** If your answer to 12a is ‘yes’, please provide any additional comments or supporting evidence that you feel may be useful to the development of a long term tariff structure for support for CHP.  |

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| **Additional Information** |
| Please provide any additional information or evidence that you believe may be relevant for determining the future of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.  |
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**Thank you for taking the time to read and respond to this consultation document. The Department appreciates your responses.**

**Freedom of Information, Environmental Information and Data Protection**

Following the end of the consultation, the Department will publish a consultation report summarising responses received in an aggregated format. This report may include anonymised direct quotes from your response. Personal information that you provide in your response will not be published in the consultation report.

However any information provided in responses, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Data Protection Act 2018 if the Department receives such a request for information

Please note that the response boxes are expandable to allow you to provide as much evidence as possible.

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| Please identify any information which you do not wish to be disclosed and explain why you regard that information as confidential. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.  |

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| **Privacy Notice** **Data Controller Name:** Department for the Economy**Address:** Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast**Telephone:** 0300 200 7835**Email:** RHI.Consultation2018@economy-ni.gov.uk**Why are you processing my personal information?**Personal data collected in this consultation exercise will be used for analysis and reporting of consultation responses. The Department may also use the information for other public task purposes in line with the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. **What categories of personal data are you processing?**The personal data collected in this consultation exercise will consist of name, email address and any additional personal data you provide in your responses.**Where do you get my personal data from?**Information is collected from you when you complete this survey and submit your consultation response. **Do you share my personal data with anyone else?**The personal data collected in this consultation exercise will not be shared outside of the Department for the Economy.**Do you transfer my personal data to other countries?**No.**How long do you keep my personal data?**The data you provide in your response will be stored on the Department’s Record Management system and will be retained for seven years after the end of the consultation and destroyed in August 2025 in line with the Department’s Retention and Disposal Schedule. **What rights do I have?*** You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and [access to your personal data](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/right-of-access/)
* You are entitled to have personal data [rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/right-to-rectification/)
* You have the right to [‘block’ or suppress processing](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/right-to-restrict-processing/) of personal data, in specific circumstances
* **You have the right to** [object to the processing](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/right-to-object/)**,** in specific circumstances

**How do I complain if I am not happy?****If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact the Department’s Data Protection Officer at:****Data Protection Officer:** Bernard McCaughan**Email:** **DPO@economy-ni.gov.uk****Telephone number:** (028) 9052 9256**If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO):****Information Commissioner’s Office**Wycliffe HouseWater LaneWilmslowCheshireSK9 5AFTel: 0303 123 1113Email: casework@ico.org.uk<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/> |