



## Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

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Rt Hon Sir Patrick Coghlin  
RHI Inquiry  
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*Dear Sir Patrick,*

As you will know, last Wednesday the House of Commons was asked to pass a bill that included provisions to make changes to the payments for installations under the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. This bill was fast-tracked through the House; all relevant stages of the bill were taken in one day rather than through the usual process which allows more time for scrutiny.

During the debate, I raised concerns about this process and about the limited time available. We were assured that the bill must be fast-tracked for payments to continue to be made to businesses. The Secretary of State said she hoped the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, or another Committee of the House, would now spend time looking at the issue. This is clearly less than satisfactory as any work will now be backward looking. However, my Committee agreed this morning to look at the proposals in the bill and, if necessary, make recommendations.

The focus of our work will be specifically those changes Parliament has been asked to agree; principally, rationale for the tariff structure; comparison with payments in Great Britain; the impact on businesses; and what other options were available. We do not intend to look at the wider Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, which is rightly the subject of your independent inquiry. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Yours sincerely, Andrew Murrison*

**Dr Andrew Murrison MP**  
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee