



Subject:	Notice of Motion : Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme – Response from the Secretary of State
Date:	17 th February, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the response from the Secretary of State in relation to the Council's Motion on the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, passed the following motion on the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, which had been proposed by Alderman Ruth Patterson and seconded by Councillor Heading:</p> <p>“This Council notes the serious public concern amongst our constituents in relation to financial squander around the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.</p> <p>The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State, as public representatives,</p>

	<p>highlighting the huge public interest in relation to this matter and, accordingly, requests that he initiates a full public inquiry, pursuant to his discretion contained within Section 1 of the Inquiries Act 2005.</p> <p>3.2 The Council agrees also to write to the Joint First Minister, Arlene Foster, expressing our belief, as a Council, that she should step aside pending a full public inquiry into this extraordinarily serious matter and the allegations of corruption which have been made by a former Government Minister from her own Party.”</p> <p>3.3 A response has now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is attached. The response affirms the Secretary of State’s view that the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme is a devolved matter and that it should be the subject of an independent inquiry established by the devolved institutions. The Secretary of State has welcomed the establishment of such an inquiry and considers it to be an important step in building confidence in the institutions.</p> <p>3.4 The response states also that the Secretary of State is encouraging full co-operation with the inquiry and hopes that it will quickly and effectively establish the facts around the Scheme. It adds that the UK Government will do everything in its power to support the inquiry.</p> <p>3.5 <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p>3.6 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Response from the Secretary of State