Dear Sirs,

Delighted to see the move towards the RHI and consultation.

Our business has long advocated this and indeed I have spoken several times in Ireland to share the success of the large water source heat pump we deployed at Drammen in Norway.


The system is most suited to an Irish climate with some sunshine and plenty of rain. In addition the growing demand for cooling can be met by harnessing the cold end of the system.

I have been immersed in the UK RHI for many years and would be delighted to help you pick the better bits and avoid the weaker ones.

Fundamentally it is a sound system for large water source heat pump with tiering and budgetary caps.

The northern Ireland RHI has obviously attracted a lot of attention in the biomass segment that would be better avoided. However they also made a fundamental mistake with tariffs for heat pumps in assuming oil as business as usual case and so a very low level of RHI/kWh. The UK level is about right and in any case the regression will adjust downwards automatically as the system picks up.

Most important is to allow pre-accreditation as otherwise the projects are not investment viable. 18 months is a reasonable duration. Outline planning consent and letter in principal from funders should be in place to avoid timewasters.

There is some uncertainty about eligible sources of heat. I sit on the Renewable Heating and Cooling Platform in the European Commission and note the pending revision of the RES Directive. This is not yet clear on what are eligible sources of heat and you should be careful of the definition.

It is also important to support district heat networks as these are not supported by the RHI typically.

Best wishes as you draw up your plans. You would be most welcome to visit Drammen in our next visit.

Regards,

Dave Pearson