

From the Office of the
Minister for Finance & Personnel



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**

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Dear Brian

23 February 2011

Budget Bill debate – Second stage – 15 February

During the budget debate you raised the issue of the closure of the green rate rebate schemes (the energy efficiency homes schemes and the low carbon homes schemes). In response to this I stated that the rates relief scheme amounted to £150 per household, but the cost of administering it was £2,500 per household.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding you will wish to note that £150 refers to the energy efficiency homes scheme (up to £150 can be awarded for the installation of either loft or cavity wall insulation or up to £300 where both measures are installed). My statement in relation to the administration costs referred to the low carbon homes scheme, where a rate rebate has been awarded for up to two years. My officials have since advised that there has recently been a further successful award, bringing the total number to three, reducing the ongoing administration costs to just over £1650 per household.

I trust that this clarifies the position. A copy of this letter goes to the Speaker and Members. A copy will also be placed in the Assembly library.

Yours sincerely

SAMMY WILSON MP MLA

I am sure you would agree that the money would be better spent on insulating homes thus reducing energy consumption than on administering