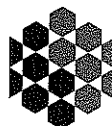


**From the Office of the Minister  
Michelle Gildernew MP MLA**



Department of

**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus  
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an  
Kintra Fordèrin**

Mr John McCallister MLA  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast

Room 438  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast BT4 3SB  
Telephone: 028 9052 4140  
Fax: 028 9052 4170  
Email: [private.office@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@dardni.gov.uk)

Our Ref: COR/217/2010  
Your Ref:

14 May 2010

John, a chara

During the Oral Questions session on 27 April 2010, you asked me to clarify whether the clause for crop insurance in state-aid rules came into effect only in January 2010 and that therefore, growers would not have had access to any such crop insurance policy for their crops. I agreed to respond you in writing.

EU State Aid Rules, Commission Regulation (EC) 1857/2006 stipulates that from 1 January 2010 any aid paid in respect of an adverse climatic event occurring after that date must be reduced by 50% if the farmer does not have appropriate insurance cover. The crop damage assessment exercise undertaken by my Department concerned potato and vegetable crops damaged by frost in January 2010.

The availability of insurance is a separate issue. To assist in this regard I agreed with Executive colleagues on 15 April that my officials would hold discussions with the farming and insurance industries to see if there are ways of making insurance more accessible to farmers, as this is the direction we would all like to see the industry follow.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Speaker's Office and a copy placed in the Assembly library.

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**MICHELLE GILDERNEW MP MLA  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**

