

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Mr Sean Neeson, MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
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Dear Sean,

22nd September 2010

Following my Assembly Statement made on 13 September 2010, I confirmed that I would obtain information in relation to your question concerning InterTradelreland and the number of companies from Northern Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland that have taken up use of the facilities in respect of InterTradelreland's facilities and programmes and the number of companies that have been involved.

I can confirm that in relation to InterTradelreland's Information and Advice Services the split between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is almost exactly one-third/two-thirds. The total number of firms that have accessed InterTradelreland's Information and Advice Services (to end June 2010) is 15,643. The number of Northern Ireland firms in this category is one third of the total, 5,200 circa.

In terms of Northern Ireland companies participating directly on InterTradelreland Trade and Business Development Programmes, the data currently held demonstrates an aggregate split 39.61 (39%) of all companies participating are Northern Ireland companies.

The ratios do vary across the programmes, for example, 42% of Acumen companies are Northern Ireland companies, while 35% of Fusion companies are Northern Ireland companies.

The total number of firms that have participated on the Body's Trade and Business Development Programmes (to end June 2010) is 1,898. The total number of Northern Ireland firms in this category is 39% of the total, therefore 740.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Assembly library for information.

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment