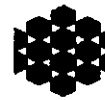


From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545
E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk

Martina Anderson MLA
NI Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

26 June 2009

Dear Ms Anderson

I am responding to your query in your supplementary question during Oral Questions on Tuesday 23 June 2009 with regards to Arntz Belting. I had stated I would come back to you in relation to the specific issue you raised.

At the time I was unaware you had tabled the following Priority Question for answer on 26 June 2009 –

“To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) if she is aware of indications that Arntz Belting Company is to close two factories; (ii) whether she has any indication that the Pennyburn factory, in the Foyle constituency, may be one of the intended closures; and (iii) if she will be in contact with Arntz Belting Company to ascertain the long-term plans for the Pennyburn factory given that it has been in receipt of sizeable funding from Invest NI.”

Rather than send a separate reply to the question you raised at DETI Oral Question Time I have attached a copy of the answer to the Priority Question you tabled. I hope this clarifies the position.

I am copying this letter and attachment to both the Speaker's Office and the Assembly Library for the record.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS WRITTEN (AQW)

Due for answer on: 26 June 2009

AQW No: 8611/09

Put Down By: M Anderson
Political Party: Sinn Fein
Constituency: Foyle

Question:

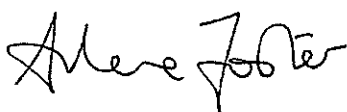
To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) if she is aware of indications that Arntz Belting Company is to close two factories; (ii) whether she has any indication that the Pennyburn factory, in the Foyle constituency, may be one of the intended closures; and (iii) if she will be in contact with Arntz Belting Company to ascertain the long-term plans for the Pennyburn factory given that it has been in receipt of sizeable funding from Invest NI.

Answer:

I am aware that Optibelt, the Parent Company of Arntz Belting Company Ltd is considering a number of options as a result of global economic downturn. As yet no decision has been made to close two factories nor specific factories identified.

Invest NI officials have kept me aware of challenges facing the Arntz Belting Company factory at Pennyburn, Londonderry.

On my behalf, Invest NI continue to liaise with the Company in relation to long-term plans for the Pennyburn Factory with a view to intervening if and when appropriate. The Company have not received any funding from Invest NI since 1997. All obligations under previous offers have been fulfilled. There are, therefore, no clawback issues.



Arlene Foster MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Date: 26 June 2009