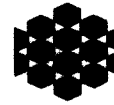


From the Office of the Minister



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Mr Basil McCrea, MLA  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX

6<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear Mr McCrea,


Following Oral Questions on 23 June I agreed to provide additional information on the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI, and how that compared with the total planned investment of supported projects.

During the financial year ended 31 March 2009, Invest NI offered £150m in support of projects planning to invest £1,178m. The value of assistance offered was 30% greater than in 2007/08, and represented 13% of the total project costs (investment). It should be noted that the figures for 2008-09 included a number of offers to very significant projects, including £21m of assistance to the Bombardier C Series project, which contributed towards £520m of planned investment. Due to its size, this project exerts a large influence on the contribution rate for the year. Removing it from the calculations produces a contribution rate of 20%, which is more representative of previous years' figures.

A detailed historical analysis of Invest NI's assistance levels is contained within its Performance Information Report, which is available in the Assembly Library.

I have arranged for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Assembly Library.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,  


**ARLENE FOSTER MLA**  
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment