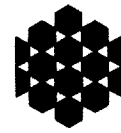


From the Office of the Minister



Department of  
**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**

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**Our Ref: DETI SUB 526/09**

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14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

*Dear Alan,*

At Oral Question time on 29 September I indicated that I would write to you with specific details of the uptake to date of Invest NI's Short Term Aid Scheme.

As you will be aware, the scheme was launched in June to assist businesses to retain key staff while they plan, and where necessary, restructure for the future so they are ready to take advantage of improved economic circumstances. The scheme is due to run until 31 December 2010.

A total of 21 applications have been approved with financial support totalling £3.1 million.

In addition to the Short Term Aid Scheme Invest NI is deploying a number of its programmes, including the Accelerated Support Fund and the Business Improvement through Training Programme, to assist companies through the current economic conditions.

I trust you find this information useful. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Assembly Library.

*John Sweeney,*  
*Arlene Foster*

**ARLENE FOSTER MLA**

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment