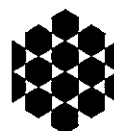


From the Office of the Minister



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Michael McGimpsey MLA
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BT4 3XX

19 February 2013

Dear Michael

FOLLOW UP TO AQO 3304/11-15 DETI ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS ON 4th FEBRUARY 2013

As a follow-on to a question posed about Selective Financial Assistance during DETI Questions on 4th February, you had asked me to give an update on expenditure on selective financial assistance in the current financial year, and how that breaks down between indigenous and foreign business. As I did not have all of the relevant information to hand at the time I am now writing to you in response to this query.

In the current year Invest NI estimates that it will spend circa £49M on selective financial assistance. This is not split between indigenous and foreign business within the organisation's accounting system. Whilst the question relates to spend on SFA, it may be more informative to report to you the value of assistance offered as an indicator of the impact of changes in the level of regional aid. This is due to the fact that offers span a number of years and the drawdown will be dependent on the speed and success of project implementation. In fact offers issued in this financial year will on average only account for 10% of the total expenditure on SFA in the current year.

Therefore on this basis I can report that in the current financial year it is estimated that £42M of selective financial assistance will be offered by Invest NI. Of this some 51%, equivalent to £21.7M, will be offered to local businesses and 49% or £20.7M will be offered to foreign owned businesses. In the previous financial year, 2011/12, £26.6M of SFA was offered of which 50% related to local businesses and 50% to foreign owned businesses.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be sent to the Speaker's Office and a copy will be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment