

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Barry McElduff MLA
Constituency Office
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26th May 2015

Dear Barry,

During Assembly Questions on 11 May 2015, my predecessor Arlene Foster MLA undertook to ascertain from Invest NI whether further progress had been made in their efforts towards securing new industrial land to service the Omagh area.

As you will be aware Invest NI has been working closely with a range of stakeholders, including the Department of the Environment and the Council, over a number of years to identify new industrial land. This engagement had previously identified a potentially suitable site but unfortunately agreement could not be reached with the landowner.

In mid September 2014 Invest NI placed an advertisement seeking interests from land owners wishing to engage with the organisation over the sale of their land for economic development. This resulted in two potentially suitable sites being identified both of which have been subject to a desktop scoping study considering factors such as topography, access, geology, availability of services and estimated acquisition/development costs.

I understand that this exercise has recently completed and Invest NI will shortly be undertaking an economic appraisal of these areas of land. This will consider factors such as potential business demand for serviced industrial land in Omagh, monetary and risk assessments and a benefit analysis.

Invest NI remains committed to this project and will continue to engage with the new Council and other stakeholders to seek to secure new industrial land for the area.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan F. Bell

JONATHAN BELL MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment



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