



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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From: Stella McArdle,
To: Jim McManus
Clerk, Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Date: 30th January 2015
Subject: Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the above named inquiry which was considered by the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development at its meeting on 27th January 2015.

The Committee ask you to note that the Agri-Food sector is the single largest private sector employer in Northern Ireland. Indeed most of the produce from this sector is exported. The Sector also has very ambitious job growth targets and will have clear thought on the issue of corporation tax. As you are aware the issue of corporation tax is one of the key recommendations within Growing for Growth under its "Better Regulation" theme. An extract from Going For Growth is below:-

Taxation

Corporation Tax: Reducing Corporation Tax to match the Republic of Ireland's 12.5% rate would help create 58,000 jobs in Northern Ireland, according to analysis produced by the Economic Advisory Group.

And

We support this objective, believing that it would remove an existing competitive disadvantage with our main competitor (Republic of Ireland) and create additional funds for reinvestment.

The Committee noted the list of the organisations that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment intends to take evidence off. It suggests that the list is widened to take account of the Agri-Food sector and that specific thought is given to the following non exclusive list of bodies :-

- Agri-food Strategy Board
- NI Food and Drink Association
- NI Meat Exporters Association
- Dairy Council NI.