



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Ms Arlene Foster MLA  
Minister  
Department for Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast  
BT4 2JP

15 December 2011

*Dear Arlene*

At today's meeting of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment, members considered the policy statement on FSA regulation of credit unions in Northern Ireland along with a response from the Department to a Committee query on the steps being taken to extend group membership of credit unions to Northern Ireland.

The Committee very much welcomes the Department's intention to include proposals for a Credit Union Bill in the Assembly's draft legislative programme for the current mandate.

Given the protracted time period from the commencement of the ETI Committee inquiry into the role of credit unions in Northern Ireland in October 2008 and the development of Treasury proposals for the regulation of credit unions by the FSA, the Committee is in agreement that there should be no further undue delay in bringing forward provisions to enable Northern Ireland credit unions to provide the broad range of services available to credit union members in GB. The Committee therefore requests that the Department considers the Credit Unions Bill as a high priority in its legislative programme.

Yours sincerely,

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**Alban Maginness MLA**  
Chair  
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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