

24 October 2014

Alastair Hamilton
Chief Executive

Patsy McGlone MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment Committee
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 375
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
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Dear Mr McGlone

Northern Ireland Assembly Visit to USA, 22-27 June 2014

I am in receipt of your letter of 13 October.

It is very encouraging to read that the Committee members who travelled to the USA back in June were so impressed with the overall organization, planning and delivery of the trade mission and visit programme. I am particularly pleased that the Committee has recognized the contribution made by Invest NI colleagues, whether based locally or overseas. I trust you will agree with me when I say, such events are truly a team effort.

By extending an invitation to members to participate in an Invest NI overseas event, my intention was to expose them to the nature and complexity of international trade and investment and to seek their support and comments. I have read the Committee's report with interest and am pleased to say that we have been successful on both counts.

I would be happy to facilitate an opportunity whereby Committee members can engage informally with Invest NI colleagues who are based overseas. The most likely time for this to take place would be during our International Staff Conference, which is normally held in May each year. It would also be important to include relevant NI-based staff.

The opportunity for overseas colleagues to submit oral evidence to the Committee is appreciated and I am happy to facilitate, with the understanding that the Committee is flexible in its requirements, as overseas staff are usually only here for up to five days. As soon as dates and programme content are finalised, Vicky Kell, Director of Trade, will be in touch with the Committee Clerk.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or require further information, please get in touch.

Once again, thank you for your letter of support.

Yours sincerely

