

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Alastair Ross MLA
Chairman, Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
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10 November 2015

Dee Alastair

BUSINESS CRIME

Thank you for your letter of 23 October and the accompanying Report of the Business Crime Stakeholder Event, which the Committee for Justice held on 14 May 2015.

As noted in your Report, the interests of the business sector are currently represented at a strategic level, in the Executive's Community Safety Strategy 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' which my Department leads on.

You will be aware from the annual progress reports on the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy, which are provided to the Committee, that the key emphasis in the delivery of the Strategy is partnership working.

Given the value which my Department places on partnership working, I think that, in the first instance, I should provide partners on our respective Delivery Groups an opportunity to consider the Committee Report.



I therefore propose sharing your Report with members of the Rural and Retail Delivery Groups and the Organised Crime Task Force, which has a number of sub groups relevant to the business sector.

The Organised Crime Task Force, is currently reviewing it's overarching strategy document, and in the coming months, the Rural and Retail Delivery Groups will be reviewing their Action Plans for 2016-17. These Groups can consider whether specific targets should be developed to take forward the issues detailed in your Report.

My officials are also scheduled to meet with officials from the Police Service for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board to consider options to improve current partnership working to address business crime.

When these processes have been completed, I will provide a further response to the Committee on your proposed actions. I trust this is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ford'.

DAVID FORD MLA
Minister of Justice



**Mr Alastair Ross MLA
Chairman, Committee for Justice**

Mr David Ford MLA
Minister of Justice
Block B, Castle Buildings
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23 October 2015

Dear Minister of Justice

BUSINESS CRIME

The Committee for Justice held a Business Crime Stakeholder Event on 14 May 2015 at which key stakeholders including representatives of the PSNI attended.

At its meeting on 8 October 2015 the Committee considered the report of the event which outlines the discussion of key issues raised in relation to business crime and possible actions that could be taken to address problems.

The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the report and ask you to provide a response on the issues raised and the proposed actions which include:

- Development of a Business Crime Strategy/Business Crime Plan for Northern Ireland
- Improved strategic partnership working through either:
 - i. A Partnership Forum
 - ii. A dedicated Assistant Chief Constable for business crime to provide ongoing engagement
- The adoption and use of an agreed definition of business crime to provide for improved and consistent data collection and analysis regarding scale and impact

I would appreciate by **Wednesday 4 November 2015**.

The Committee has also written requesting a response from the Chief Constable of the PSNI.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Ross, MLA
Chairman, Committee for Justice