

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
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31 October 2012

Dear Ross

During Enterprise, Trade and Investment questions on 21st October 2012, I undertook to provide you with job creation information within the period of the current Assembly mandate.

Within the current Programme for Government, my Department, through Invest NI, has committed to promoting over 25,000 jobs, with 13,300 of these to have been achieved by the end of the current financial year. It should be emphasised that the measure of performance is jobs 'promoted' and not jobs 'created'. Promoted jobs are the total number of jobs expected to be created over the life of the project and this measure is in line with the standard performance measures of other economic development agencies across the UK and Ireland and is measured in this way as the jobs created by any project can often take a number of years to fully materialise.

The current Assembly mandate commenced on 12th May 2011 and between then and 30 September 2012, the total number of jobs promoted was 7,825. This is composed of jobs promoted from foreign investments, the growth of locally-owned companies, new business starts and the Jobs Fund.

The Jobs Fund was developed as a specific initiative to rapidly respond to increasing unemployment and, as such, this scheme does have defined job creation targets – with 4,000 new jobs to be created by 31 March 2014. Of the 2,843 new jobs promoted under the Fund during the period in question, 1,667 have already been created.

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

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment