

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

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Fearghal McKinney MLA
Constituency Office
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26th May 2015

Dear Fearghal,

During Assembly Questions on 11 May 2015, my predecessor Arlene Foster MLA undertook to ascertain from Invest NI the number of Expressions of Interest it has received in relation to its proposals to stimulate the development of new Grade A office accommodation.

The availability of suitable office accommodation is an important part of Northern Ireland's investment proposition, as is the ability to offer variety and choice to potential investors. You will be aware that the Invest NI commissioned review of the commercial property in Northern Ireland confirmed the existence of market failure in the provision of Grade A accommodation.

On 21st April 2015 Minister Foster announced that Invest NI had plans to bring forward a scheme to provide loans/equity to private sector property developers. This was launched through an expressions of interest exercise on 1st May. Applications (or Expressions of Interest) will be accepted between 1st June and 31st August 2015.

The gap of one month is believed to be necessary to ensure that applicants have sufficient time to fully prepare the information essential to their application.

I am aware that as a Member of the Enterprise Trade and Investment Committee you have shown a keen interest in the work of Invest NI in this particular area. I am happy to write to you and other Committee Members after this date to update you with the number of applications that were received.

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

Yours sincerely

Jonathan F. Bell.

JONATHAN BELL MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment