From the Office of the Minister



NETHERLEIGH MASSEY AVENUE BELFAST BT4 2JP

Tel: 028 90 529452 Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail:private.office@detini.gov.uk
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Leslie Cree MLA Northern Ireland Assembly Parliament Buildings BELFAST BT4 3XX

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Dear Leslie

During Assembly Questions on 20 January, you asked me for information on the jobs created in North Down as a result of Invest NI's Jobs Fund.

Within the North Down parliamentary constituency there are currently 19 Jobs Fund projects at various stages of development which should lead to the creation of 141 new jobs in total, 37 of which had already been created by 31 December 2013. As I mentioned in the Assembly, one of the key projects supported is Mango Direct who have already created 15 jobs as part of an overall 55 job project.

The Jobs Fund has also provided support to eight young people (aged 16-24) Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to set up their own business through the NEET Business Start grant, and to six individuals resident in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA) to set up their own business through the NRA Business Start Grant.

I trust that you have found this update helpful. 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

ARLENE FOSTER MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment