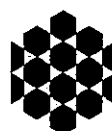


From the Office of the Minister



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Samuel Gardiner MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 301
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11 March 2014

Dear Samuel

During Oral Question time on 17 February 2014, in relation to AQO 5560/11-15, you asked 'How many services that the Civil Service formerly delivered are now delivered by the private sector, and how many jobs have been relocated from the public to the private sector as a result?'

The focus of the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (NIES) is not to transfer jobs from the public to the private sector but to rebalance the NI economy by growing and strengthening our private sector through export-led economic growth.

I have checked with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and have been advised that information relating to the number of former civil service jobs which are now delivered by the private sector is not held centrally by DFP. Each Department would therefore be responsible for holding their own information. I can advise that, within my Department, no services or public sector jobs have been relocated to the private sector during the current PfG period.

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