



**Independent
Review of
Economic Policy**
(DETI and Invest NI)

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC POLICY [DETI / INVEST NI]

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

CONTEXT

On the 1 December 2008, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Arlene Foster, MLA, launched the Independent Review of Economic Development Policy (IREP). The Review relates to the economic development policies and programmes of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) and Invest NI.

An independent panel has been established to undertake the Review. The Panel is chaired by Professor Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ulster. The other members of the Review Panel are Professor Brian Ashcroft, Dr Graham Gudgin, Professor Michael Moore and John Wright.

Terms of Reference have been developed and the Review Panel is working to analyse and, where appropriate, make recommendations in each of the areas outlined below:

- a. The current and forecasted performance of the Northern Ireland economy, relative to other regions with access to similar policy instruments, programmes and resources;
- b. Current DETI/Invest NI policies and programmes, with an assessment of their effectiveness in stimulating productivity improvements, particularly within manufacturing and private services;
- c. Policy options to stimulate economic growth / productivity and build a larger and more wealth creating private sector, particularly in financial and value added business services;
- d. How NI can further attract value added FDI and promote domestic investment;
- e. Review and advise on the structure and remit of Invest NI and the existing governance arrangements between DETI, DFP and Invest NI;
- f. Identify any issues which may inhibit the delivery of the productivity goal which fall to other Departments in the NI Executive, particularly DEL (in relation to skills) and DRD (in relation to regional planning and infrastructure investment);

- g. Consider the optimal way by which the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment engages with key stakeholders on economic development issues;
- h. Consider whether any improvements could be made to DETI and Invest NI's working links within the NI Executive and on an east/west and north/south basis;
- i. The sub-regional distribution of inward investment and other support measures to indigenous businesses, and the effectiveness of policy in encouraging the location of investment; and
- j. Assess the challenging nature of the economic goals/targets contained in the Programme for Government and, where appropriate, recommend any change.

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Review Panel invites interested parties to submit **evidence** in relation to the issues identified in the Terms of Reference (a-j above).

In developing their analysis and recommendations, the Panel would, where possible, welcome **evidence** on any direct experience you may have in relation to:

- How effective DETI / Invest NI support has been to date;
- What factors have prohibited the uptake/drawdown of support; and
- What further steps DETI/Invest NI could take to further support business growth and productivity improvements in the Northern Ireland private sector.

It is recognised that not all areas will be relevant to respondents. In responding, the Terms of Reference headings should be used as a guide. However, respondents should also feel free to highlight additional issues/information they consider appropriate to the Review Panel.

Respondents should note that the Review Panel will only consider options for change which fall within the current legislative powers of the Assembly. They should also note that, unless they specify otherwise, responses will be made public on the Review Group's website: <http://irep.org.uk/>

HOW TO REPLY

Please send submissions to the Review Panel by 27 February 2009. Submissions should be sent by email to info@irep.org.uk or, by post to:

Independent Review of Economic Policy (DETI / Invest NI)
1st Floor
Waterfront Plaza
8 Laganbank Road
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