



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

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30 January 2009

Dear Colleague,

**Independent Review of Economic Policy (Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Investment / Invest Northern Ireland)**

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Investment has invited me to chair an Independent Review of Economic Policy (IREP), as it relates to DETI and Invest NI. The aim of the Review is to ensure that DETI / Invest NI policies, programmes and resources are targeted to help achieve the stretching productivity goal contained in the Programme for Government.

This is strategically a very important Review, and it comes at a time when the Executive has made 'growing a dynamic, innovative economy' its top priority. It is therefore vitally important that this Review is informed by evidence on the effectiveness of DETI / Invest NI support to business. As such, I am writing to invite you to submit evidence to the Review on the issues outlined in the attached 'call for evidence'.

Whilst, I fully recognise the significant pressures faced by local businesses at this time, this Review is focused on the medium to longer term priorities for the economy. The Terms of Reference for the Review, along with further information on the composition of the Review Panel, is available at: <http://irep.org.uk/>

The call for evidence has been issued directly to major stakeholders involved in economic development in Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, I would be grateful if you would circulate the call to your membership, or appropriate colleagues, who may also wish to respond in an individual capacity.

Please submit your response to the review team by **27 February 2009**, at the following address:

By email: info@irep.org.uk, or

By post: Independent Review of Economic Policy (DETI/Invest NI)
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Finally, it would be helpful if you could indicate in your response a point of contact to facilitate any follow-up in relation to your submission which the review team might wish to arrange.

I look forward to receiving your views on these important matters.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Barnett', with a horizontal line underneath it.

PROFESSOR RICHARD BARNETT

Chair, Independent Review of Economic Development Policy (DETI/Invest NI), and Vice Chancellor, University of Ulster.