



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee for the Environment
Room 245
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Tel: 028 9052 1347
amcgarel@niassembly.gov.uk

Professor Richard Barnett
Chair Independent Review of Economic Policy
1st Floor
Waterfront Plaza
8 Laganbank Road
BELFAST
BT1 3SB

27 February 2009

= 2 MAR 2009

Dear Professor Barnett

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

Thank you for the opportunity for the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Environment to respond to this review.

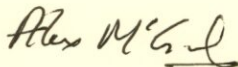
Over the last year the Committee has heard evidence from a range of organisations demonstrating how an environmental focus can offer a range of opportunities for economic development. This includes, but is not necessarily confined to, adding value to the lower value added sectors, like agriculture and construction, that persist in Northern Ireland.

For example:

- In keeping with PSA target 4 in the Programme for Government, opportunities may exist for the expansion of agricultural activity beyond food production to contribute to the demand for renewable energy either with dedicated crops or more constructive utilisation of farm waste.
- In keeping with PSA target 11 in the Programme for Government, the encouragement of the construction industry to utilise technologies that will be socially and environmentally beneficial in the longer term, like sustainable urban drainage and energy efficient housing, rather than focusing solely on short-term economic gain.
- In keeping with PSA target 12 in the Programme for Government, harnessing existing manufacturing expertise and premises for the production and development of green technology.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee if you have any queries regarding this response and I look forward to seeing the report of your review.

Yours sincerely



PP Patsy McGlone
Chair of the Environment Committee