



RetailNI

Standing up for
Independent Retailers

Hospitality
Ulster



MANUFACTURING
NORTHERN IRELAND



A NEW DEAL FOR
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Our three business organisations represent three of the largest sectors of industry and the majority of businesses in Northern Ireland.

Hospitality Ulster is the professional body representing the hospitality industry in Northern Ireland, which sustains 60,000 jobs and contributes in excess of £1bn annually to the NI economy. With membership consisting of pubs, bars, café-bars, restaurants, hotels and major visitor attractions, “we’re not in the hospitality business, we ARE the hospitality business.” (Established 1872).

Manufacturing NI is a campaigning organisation which works with member companies across the manufacturing sector, workforce representatives, policymakers and regulators to challenge and encourage change in areas which impact on the cost

of doing business; specifically rates, energy and labour. They work to create the most competitive region in Europe in which to start, sustain and grow a manufacturing business, thus creating wealth and work. The sector directly and indirectly supports 1 in 4 jobs in Northern Ireland.

Retail NI is Northern Ireland’s only business organisation which stands up for the independent retail sector at every level of Government. No other business group is as dedicated to putting the local retailer first. Our 1800 strong membership includes wholesalers, independent retailers of all kinds, suppliers to our sector and affiliated Chambers of Commerce and local traders’ groups.

INTRODUCTION

We bring solutions not problems to the doors of policymakers.

It has been over eighteen months since Northern Ireland had a devolved, working Government. In that time the world has changed and the economy has moved on. So should economic policy in Northern Ireland.

Our three organisations want to see a reboot of economic policy, to ensure Northern Ireland enjoys a high growth rate, ambitious levels of productivity and more and better jobs.

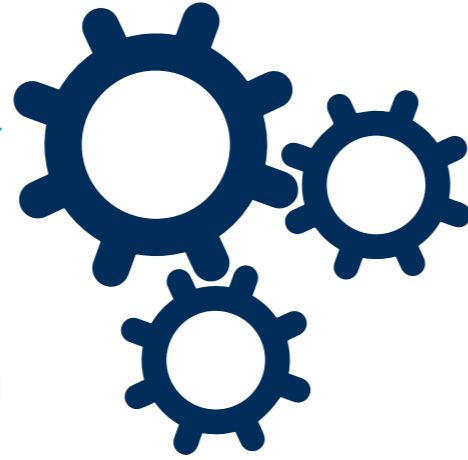
We need any new Stormont administration to hit the ground running with a radical plan for action.

This is our joint plan of action for **A New Deal For Northern Ireland.**



PRODUCTIVITY

- In the absence of a Northern Ireland Assembly, Westminster should set a firm date of April 2021 for the introduction of a Northern Ireland rate of Corporation Tax.
- In the interim, we propose the £300 million earmarked to fund Corporation Tax be invested in skills, infrastructure and a radical extension of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.
- This 'reboot' of existing policy would stimulate economic growth for our indigenous small business sector, ensuring we have the right skills pipeline and modernised infrastructure ready for attracting Foreign Direct Investment alongside a 12.5% Corp Tax rate in 2021.



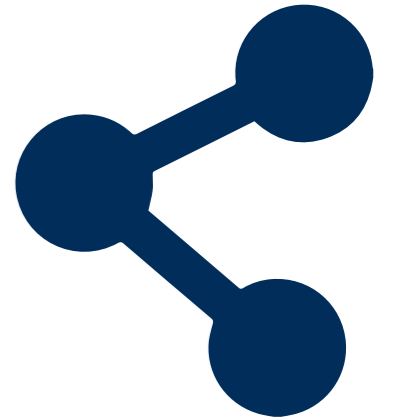
REGULATORY

- An enabling taxation and regulatory environment that can stimulate growth, including the reduction of Tourism VAT in NI.
- Reduce the costs of doing business, including competitive energy prices and business rates reform to support investment.
- Freeze additional employment policy costs for the next three years.
- Avoid all potential negative consequences of Brexit including customs costs and tariffs, employment visas, market authorisations and border infrastructure.



CONNECTIVITY

- Improvement of broadband access and speeds through the speedy roll-out of the already committed investment.
- Abolition of Air Passenger Duty.
- Rapid increase in infrastructure investment and delivery, including the A5 and A6 roads projects which have been proposed for many years.
- A Rural Town Infrastructure Investment Fund.
- Continue the free movement of people, goods and services around and between the UK, Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- Northern Ireland positioned as a bridge between the UK and the EU.



ACCOUNTABILITY

- An immediate return of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive with a refreshed Economic Strategy, energy strategy, skills programme and business-friendly planning system capable of speedy turnaround of large-scale applications, with a fast track process to address the legislative backlog.
- Greater engagement and coordination with UK Departments and Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees in relation to the NI economy.



SKILLS

- Significant increase in skills development from apprenticeship to leadership.
- Reform of the Apprenticeship Levy to deliver a Northern Ireland model suitable to the needs of local businesses.
- A '14-19 Policy', ensuring an end to 'education silos'.
- A migration policy which recognises regional differences and need, with a review of the Tier System by the Home Office.
- Introduction of T Levels and parity between vocational and academic qualifications.



COMMITMENT

- Support business capital investment through revised capital allowances.
- Market development investment including rolling over existing EU trade deals.
- Greater influence in the UK Industrial Strategy including commitment to more local content in procurement.
- A greater recognition of tourism as a key economic driver within the UK and the Northern Ireland Industrial Strategy.
- Increase in the pace of delivery of City Deals for Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.
- Replace EU funding with sustained financial support which takes account of regional need.
- The creation of Tourism Enterprise Zones with specific tax reliefs and initiatives to stimulate investment in tourism infrastructure, with the aim of doubling the GDP of tourism in NI.
- Department for the Economy to develop a Retail Strategy and appoint a lead official to be the point of contact for the sector.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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