

VARNEY REVIEW *of the*
COMPETITIVENESS *of*
NORTHERN IRELAND

Sir David Varney,
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28 Jan 2008

Dear Colleague,

Varney Review of the Competitiveness of Northern Ireland
Call for Evidence

Following the publication of my *Review of tax policy in Northern Ireland* on 17 December¹, I have been asked by the Chancellor to conduct a further review of the Northern Ireland economy, building on this recent work and focusing on identifying measures to promote private sector investment and enhance competitiveness in Northern Ireland.

This review is scheduled to report back in good time for the US Investment Conference in May, and will look at incentives for promoting the sustainable growth of businesses, investment and employment in Northern Ireland and the implications for reducing the historic dependency on the public sector. This will include examination of incentives for growth in Northern Ireland that fall within the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.

I am committed to ensuring that the review is an open and transparent process that takes full account of the views of its stakeholders. As such, I am writing to invite you, or an appropriate colleague, to submit evidence to the review team.

This letter is being sent to contacts across relevant sectors – to the academic and research community, government agencies and departments, Northern Ireland Assembly committees, political parties, sector and regional bodies, and businesses and their representative organisations. It is also my intention to consult with relevant bodies in the Republic of Ireland.

This letter is also being posted on the review website:

¹ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_148_07.cfm

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/northernirelandcompetitivenessreview

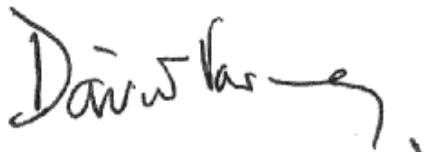
In the call for evidence document, **attached to this letter**, I have outlined the issues on which I would like to hear your views. Your input and the evidence you can provide will be of great value to the review team in developing a strong evidence base through the review process.

I would be grateful if you could send your submissions to the review team by **25 February 2008**. These should be sent by email to nireland.competitiveness@hm-treasury.gov.uk, or by post to:

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I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your input into this work.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Varney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sir David Varney