

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT THE NIO](#)

[NI DEPARTMENTS](#)

[MEDIA CENTRE](#)

[ARCHIVED NEWS](#)

[PUBLIC CONSULTATION](#)

[LINKS](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[FREEDOM OF INFORMATION](#)

[VACANCIES](#)

[PROCUREMENT](#)



## Paterson Welcomes Northern Ireland Business Coalition Plan for Jobs Boost

TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2011

### PATERSON WELCOMES NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS COALITION PLAN FOR JOBS BOOST

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Owen Paterson MP has welcomed the announcement of plans from a coalition of eight of Northern Ireland's leading business organisations that could see the creation of up to 94,000 jobs in Northern Ireland by 2020.

The Secretary of State met with representatives from the Business Coalition to hear details of their Jobs Plan policy document that calls for decisive political leadership to help create stability and confidence.

Owen Paterson said: **"I warmly welcome the announcement of this positive, forward looking agenda and congratulate the Business Coalition in tackling some of the challenges we all face in rebalancing the economy in Northern Ireland.**

**"Our over reliance on the public sector must be addressed and the proactive support of the private sector is vital."**

Heading the delegation was Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association, one of the Business Coalition members of the group that serves to represent every sector of the economy in Northern Ireland. The Business Coalition outlined their top actions that include the creation of a more competitive tax base, delivery of a sustained investment strategy, workplace skills re-alignment and ways public services can be delivered to enhance productivity and outcomes.



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TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

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TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

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MONDAY 4 APRIL 2011