

Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust

Úna Downey
Senior EU Liaison Officer
Brussels
18 November 2014

Office of the NI Executive in Brussels (ONIEB)

- To support Northern Ireland's engagement with the EU
- To ensure that Northern Ireland has the opportunity to engage in policymaking with the EU Institutions
- To raise the positive profile of Northern Ireland.

European Liaison Officers

- **Úna Downey – Economy**
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- **Ben Martin – Environment and Climate Change**
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- **Keith Ruffles – Social**
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Remit of EU Liaison Officers

- Seconded NI civil servants
- Barroso Task Force
- Liaison Officers work to Thematic Groups
- Priorities identified by key departmental officials
- Activities identified and agreed by Group members to be achieved in Brussels
- Identified policy areas retained by departments
- Technical detail retained by departmental experts

Role of the EU Liaison Officers

Information gathering

- Monitor Council and Parliament deliberations;
- Analyse and share policy developments; and
- Attend working groups and events

Role of the EU Liaison Officers

Networking

- Make contacts in the EU institutions and relevant bodies in Brussels;
- Identify regions of interest to NI and raise NI's profile; and
- Pursue and share networking and capacity building opportunities.

Role of the EU Liaison Officers

Competitive Funding

- Identify and disseminate calls;
- Advice on relevant EU **competitive** funding streams;
and
- Support in finding transnational partners

Opportunities for engagement Brussels? Northern Ireland? Both?

- Prior engagement with support systems in NI important – be informed
- Plan in advance – a weeks notice won't work
- Liaise with Brussels staff – use their local knowledge
- Find the right time – timing is everything
- Target audience – right people, right place

Communications

- Look out for events data base
- Forthcoming competitive funding data base
- NICP network for H2020 (<http://www.detini.gov.uk>)
- New web site coming soon!
- Social media – twitter account active (@brusselsni)
- NIERF – (<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk>)
- Invest Northern Ireland
- EU Commission Office in Belfast

Questions?

Thank you for listening.