

From the Office of the Minister



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Our Ref: DETI COR 143/2014

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7 April 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25th March 2014 regarding the Agri-Food Loan Scheme.

The first (broiler) phase of the Agri-Food Loan Scheme is open for business and I am delighted that the first loan has now been approved. While a key requirement of the scheme is that producers form part of an integrated supply chain, it is important to note that this is not exclusively a "Moy Park scheme" and is open to all interested poultry processors.

Under the poultry phase of the Scheme, there is the scope to make provision for a number of breeder and laying sheds. However, at the moment the demand from poultry processors for new breeder and laying operations is not apparent. Therefore, our efforts have been focussed on rolling the Scheme to those parts of the agri-food sector where there is visible demand from processors for increased production, such as broiler production.

My officials, in conjunction with the banks, are continuing to examine the potential to extend the Scheme to other agri-food sectors. They are keen to engage with any producers and processors with the potential to form integrated supply chains and who could bring forward proposals to Invest NI for consideration.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment



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