Urgent

19 March 2011

By Email

Greg Chammings
Enterprise Policy & Strategy
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
Victoria Street
London

Dear Greg.

Re: Claims under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 as amended - (MPMNI Annex A.4.6.4)

Following receipt of your colleague David Wilson's email on 9 December 2011 I wrote to Cathal McLaughlin at the Department of Trade Enterprise and Investment in Belfast on the 12 December 2011. You will hopefully recall the letter since at the time I not only copied it to yourself but also to your colleagues David Wilson and Adam Jackson.

In the 98 days that have elapsed since the December 2011 letter to Cathal McLaughlin you are aware that not only did that original request fail to produce any progress but likewise a subsequent more recent request.

In the circumstances can I ask that you now intervene for third time on behalf of

For the record I am attaching a copy of a letter that has recently been sent to Ms Julie Thompson, Senior Finance & Personnel Director, Resource Performance and Management Group, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Belfast.

As you consider both the request contained in this letter together with the letter to the Department following their most recent response could I perhaps draw your attention to the foreword of the document entitled Managing Public Money N Ireland where at Part v)

it states "nor should anything in this document discourage the application of sheer common sense"

In the meantime could I suggest that part of answer to resolving this matter could perhaps be found in the email from the Central Procurement Directorate dated 9 March 2011 (copy attached).

You will of course not be surprised to learn that have already attempted to raise such a suggestion with the Southern HSC Trust and this is one of a number of issues remaining unanswered from a letter emailed to the Finance Director of the Southern HSC Trust as long ago as 27 December 2011 – 83 days ago.

I await your early responses to this request that for a third time the Department of Business Innovation and Skills intervene to encourage that a resolution to this ongoing matter be sought. Trusting that this time a little of the common sense mentioned in the foreword to Managing Public Money N Ireland will in fact be allowed to prevail and that as a result all matters can be resolved and the need for a fourth intervention avoided.

Yours sincerely

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Cc Sammy Wilson MLA Minister of Finance and Personnel, Edwin Poots MLA Minister of Health Social Services and Public Safety, Dr Andew McCormick Permanent Secretary Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety, Adam Jackson EU SME Envoy Department Business Innovation and Skills, David Simpson MP, Stephen Moutray MLA

