

2009 Pre-Budget Report

Pre-Budget Report for Northern Ireland

Today, the Chancellor announces a package of measures that will continue to support vulnerable families and businesses through the downturn and prepare for recovery; strengthen the credibility and transparency of its plans to halve the deficit over the next four years; and prioritise investment to create a strong platform for future growth.

These measures include:

Supporting business

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee has provided targeted support for viable businesses with less than £25 million turnover who have no or insufficient security. The Pre-Budget Report announces that the scheme will be continued for a further 12 months, making an additional £500 million of bank lending available to SMEs. So far in Northern Ireland, this scheme has meant that over £16m of eligible applications from 85 firms that have been granted are being processed or assessed.

In order to strengthen the incentives to invest in innovative industries and ensure the UK remains an attractive location for innovation, the Government announces it will introduce a Patent Box, applying a reduced rate of Corporation Tax to income from patents, from April 2013. This may benefit innovative industries in Northern Ireland.

Public services

The Government will continue to support as the economy recovers and invest in frontline public services that people rely on. But it is important to live within our means in the medium term.

The PBR announces an additional £28 million for the Northern Ireland Executive as a consequence of increases for UK government departments.

Tackling climate change

The Government is continuing to deliver on measures taken at the Pre-Budget Report in November 2008 and Budget Report earlier this year in April.

The PBR builds on new policies announced since last autumn to increase UK investment in the low carbon and energy sector, including through an additional £150 million funding for low-carbon technologies through the Strategic Investment Fund and a proposed €100m investment in the 2020 European fund for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure. This potentially benefits investment in Northern Ireland.

Liam Byrne, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said:



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“This Pre-Budget Report will help lock in Britain’s recovery, protecting families and businesses in Northern Ireland through the downturn and accelerating growth.

By taking tough action on tax and spending, we’ll halve the deficit in four years, and promote future growth in Northern Ireland.”



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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT INTERNET SITES

Further information and all published documents relating to Pre-Budget 2009 may be found on the Internet at the following addresses:

HM Treasury: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>

HM Revenue & Customs: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>

