

Mineral Products Industry Priorities for NI Government

Delivering for Northern Ireland

The mineral products and quarrying industry is an essential, indigenous and major primary material producer that is locked in to the DNA of the NI economy. Our members supply 80000 tonnes of material per day to construction customers and are critical to many other NI industries. Transport, energy, agriculture, water and housing all rely upon the supply of mineral products of one type or another. In short, we are fundamental to the economy, the development and maintenance of NI Infrastructure, the built and natural environment and the improvement of people's everyday lives. Mineral products will continue to be essential as Brexit unfolds and NI plots its new course. Our members stand ready to deliver the materials needed for supporting higher levels of economic growth and delivering the transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2050. To maximise competitiveness of our sector and the wider economy, NI Government should prioritise the best access possible to national, all island and global markets and skills.

Priorities for Government

Building confidence for business investment:

- Making NI more competitive and attractive to investors by maintaining economic stability and minimising uncertainty
- Building on NI's underlying assets, open markets and competitive strengths

Boosting growth and productivity by:

- Stimulating economic activity, through effective industrial and regional strategies
- Accelerating the delivery of energy, water and sewerage, transport infrastructure and housing
- Ensuring education and skills systems provide the workforce with the capabilities required for the modern economy

Strengthening NI's supply chains by:

- Making the link between all forms of development and the essential mineral product supply chains they rely on
- Prioritising and supporting the indigenous supply of minerals and mineral products in line with the UK Minerals Strategy
- Ensuring neutrality between construction methods and materials to deliver sustainable and value for money projects
- Adopting procurement policies which support the supply of responsibly sourced construction materials

Enhancing industrial competitiveness by:

- Maintaining regulatory and quality equivalence with European standards as well as the UK's position as a world leader in standards development
- Ensuring a level playing field for NI's Energy Intensive Industries with proportionate energy and carbon taxes
- Holding imported construction materials to the same environmental standards as domestic production

Making industry taxation fairer and more efficient by:

- Ensuring proportionate and consistent taxation across all industrial sectors, particularly on environmental taxes
- Promoting investment and innovation through effective taxation policies including capital allowances

Improving regulation by:

- Properly resourcing both the Council and central Government mineral planning and environmental permitting systems
- Maintaining existing environmental and technical standards, but implementing regulation more effectively
- Recognising and minimising the cumulative impacts of planning and permitting regulation and avoiding regulatory duplication
- Ensuring land use planning, safeguarding mineral operations and transport facilities

Priorities for the Industry and contributing to Programme for Government.

Meeting future demands for mineral products generated by economic growth and development by:

- Investing in our people to improve skills and competence and broadening awareness of employment opportunities in the sector (PfG outcomes 1 -6)
- Investing in indigenous mineral resources, manufacturing plant and transport operations (PfG outcomes 1, 2 and 5)
- Contributing to the innovative development of mineral products and evolution of product standards and design codes (PfG outcomes 1 and 2)

Improving the sustainability of the NI supply by:

- Protecting the health and safety of our workforce and all associated with the industry, including neighbours and local communities (PfG outcomes 2,4 and 6)
- Providing and enabling solutions for the UK and NI to deliver a net zero carbon economy by 2050 (PfG outcomes 1 -6)
- Continuing to make full use of recycled and secondary materials, supporting the circular economy (PfG outcomes 1 -6)
- Increasing biodiversity, net gain and nature conservation (PfG outcomes 2,4,5)
- Contributing to improvements in air quality, reducing emissions of air pollutants (PfG outcomes 2,4,5,6)
- Working with customers to ensure efficient and sustainable use of industry products (PfG outcomes 1 -6)

The Geo Science and mineral products industry contribution to Northern Ireland :



22mt

NI production of aggregates and manufactured mineral products



4 times

The volume of energy minerals produced in the UK



£700m

Annual turnover for the NI Mineral Products industry



£1.9bn

Gross value added generated by the industry



£1.8bn

Annual turnover of the industries we supply



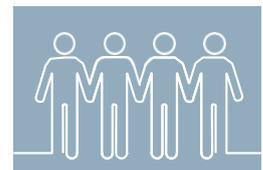
£2.5bn

Value of construction, output, our main customer



31,200

People employed in the Geo Science Industry



83,700

Jobs supported through our wider supply chain

The Mineral Products Association (NI) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. For further MPANI information visit

www.mpani.org

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