

MINUTE TEMPLATE

DoF PRIVATE OFFICE MEETING NOTE

☐ Internal	☒ External
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KN REF:		INV-0288-2025	
TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Mtg with Belfast Commercial Funding	
DATE AND TIME:		15 October 2025 at 14:30 – 15:15 Pre Brief – 14:15 to 14:30	
VENUE:	☐ PB	☒ Clare House	☐ OTHER:
ATTENDEES: Brendan Mulgrew – Communications Manager Gareth Graham – CEO/Oakland Holdings Brian Loughran – Corporate Radius Funding (Adviser)			
☒ Minister	☒ SpAd	☒ PS	
OFFICIALS:	Julianne Kieran S 40 (2)		
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED: <u>Pre-Brief (DoF Officials only)</u> – Discussed the approach for the meeting which will mainly be a listening exercise. – JK gave an overview of background to lending to SMEs. – Main asks will lie outwith the remit of the department. – No media will take place. Meeting – GG provided background to the establishment of BCF and the work it has carried out. (Slide presentation) – Organisation is a non-bank funder of small businesses – cannot take any deposits. – Only local commercial lender in the North. – Provided details on the type of businesses it supports through loans - SME including Agri, Bridging and House Building. – Only lends for secured loans. – GG set out the pros and cons of developing the business.			

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- No local bank in the North
- Ever tightening fiscal controls
- Cannot borrow, invest and grow.

– Plans for next 15 months:

– [REDACTED] S 43 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

– [REDACTED] S 43 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

– [REDACTED] S 43 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Minister is encouraging departments to be more innovative in use of FTC.
- NI Investment Fund considered as a key element of the establishment of the debt fund.
- Loans are provided via referrals from financial consultants/word of mouth from recipients rather than mainstream advertising – cited Irish Institute of Music and Song.

– [REDACTED] S 43 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ACTION POINTS / ISSUES AGREED & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE – N/A

DoF to make contact with DfE to advise that they may wish to arrange a meeting with BCF. PO

NOTE WRITTEN BY: Paula Dawson

DATE: 15 October 2025