

**From the Office of the Minister
DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**

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Tony a chara

INVEST NI SUPPORT FOR COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE F35 SUPPLY CHAIN

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Invest NI funding and matters relating to the F-35 supply chain.

I would reiterate that Judicial Review proceedings concerning these matters have been brought against the Department for the Economy, Invest NI and the Department of Finance and remain before the courts. It is therefore inappropriate to comment on specific assertions relating to individual companies, funding decisions, due diligence, clawback or matters which may arise for determination by the Court.

As Economy Minister, I am determined to ensure that no public funding supports Israel's genocide. As part of that commitment, I asked Invest NI to undertake a review of its investments to affirm that it was not supporting projects that manufacture arms or their components for supply to Israel. The review concluded that Invest NI does not support the manufacture of arms or their components for Israel and I welcomed that finding when the review was published in October 2025. No evidence to the contrary has been presented.

I recognise the importance of ensuring that public funding arrangements continue to be robust, ethical and legally sound. That is why, on 16 October 2025, I instructed officials to prepare additional measures to eliminate any risk of public funds being used to support the manufacture of arms or components that are used for genocide.

In relation to current grant applications, guidance was issued to Invest NI requiring relevant applicants to confirm that they are not manufacturing arms or arms components for countries where there is objectively verified evidence of genocide. The guidance sets out the circumstances in which this requirement applies and the basis on which relevant applications are to be considered. It applies to relevant applications submitted after the Ministerial Statement and cannot operate retrospectively. I can only speak to the actions I have taken since coming into post and cannot speak on behalf of previous Economy Ministers.

As set out in my Written Ministerial Statement, my Department is committed to developing an Ethical Investment Framework informed by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Work on that commitment has been progressing, and it is my intention that the Framework will be in place before the end of the current mandate.

Finally, the matters you raise in relation to RAF Aldergrove and the activities of the British military are not matters for which I have ministerial responsibility as Economy Minister. Issues relating to defence policy, military operations or the operation of military facilities are the responsibility of the British Government.

Thank you again for your engagement on these matters. I remain committed to transparency, ethical investment, and ensuring that public funds are administered appropriately, lawfully and in accordance with the highest human rights standards.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C Archibald', written in a cursive style.

DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
Minister for the Economy