

The Chief Executives' Club at Queen's

5.30- 7.45pm, Tuesday 10 December 2013

Riddel Hall, Stranmillis Road,
Queen's University Belfast

A Northern Ireland Economy Debate:

'Growing our Agri-Food Industry: Challenges and Opportunities for 2014'

Welcome: Professor Sean Gorman, Dean, the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, Queen's University Belfast

Debate Chair: Jim Fitzpatrick, Business and Economics Journalist and Broadcaster

Panel Members



- **Clarke Black**
Chief Executive, Ulster Farmers' Union
- **Professor Chris Elliott**
Director, Institute for Global Food Security, School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast
- **Angela McGowan**
Chief Economist, Danske Bank UK
- **Tony O'Neill**
Chair, Agri-Food Strategy Board / Convenience Foods and New Business Director, Moy Park Ltd
- **Peter Stafford**
Chair, A & L Goodbody

A Northern Ireland Economy Debate:
**‘Growing our Agri-Food Industry:
Challenges and Opportunities for 2014’**

The Chief Executives’ Club at Queen’s and A & L Goodbody, internationally recognised as one of the leading law firms on the island of Ireland, are hosting an influential and topical debate on the role played and to be played by the Agri-Food industry in growing the Northern Ireland economy.

This evening debate will give local business leaders, policy makers and interested parties an opportunity to debate and make known their views and suggestions on how we can together stimulate new growth in our economy. The debate will be chaired by business and economics journalist and broadcaster, Jim Fitzpatrick.

In exploring the challenges and opportunities that will face this important industry sector in 2014 and the years ahead, our panel will debate a range of issues including:

- *How can you sell food of high integrity and still be competitive in the international market place?*
- *What needs to be done to better support our small and medium sized local producers in creating additional jobs and driving growth in that sector?*
- *How and when will the new strategy steps published by the NI Agri-food Strategy Board be implemented, and to what ends?*
- *What role does EU legislation or support play in either supporting or hampering local growth for food producers?*
- *What can our local universities and research centres offer to better support this business sector?*
- *How can we foster more local entrepreneurship?*

The debate will focus on the contribution to be made by each sector involved in the Agri-Food industry in achieving growth – be they small or large producers, banks and other professional business support services, researchers and product developers, retailers and government. Collectively, all can and must collaborate in the drive for sustained economic growth for Northern Ireland.

Audience participation on the night is encouraged. Hand-held voting pads will be issued to those attending so that their responses on several key issues can be recorded live during the debate.

The debate will take place in Riddel Hall at Queen’s University Belfast.

Light refreshments will be served in Riddel Hall from 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start.

This event is free to attend, but please register early to secure your place by contacting:

*Brenda Carabine, Chief Executives’ Club at Queen’s,
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A&L Goodbody

