



Ford of Europe GmbH

John Fleming
Chairman & CEO
Ford of Europe

Chairman
Volvo Cars
Mr. J Hanna
Senior Committee Administrator
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
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27 APR 2009			
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REFERENCE: 43006			
REFERRED TO: J. HANNA			

Koeln-Niehl
Henry-Ford-Strasse
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15th April 2009

Dear Mr. Hanna,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding job losses in Belfast, in particular those relating to the Visteon Belfast Plant.

The economic recession is having a devastating impact for businesses and for employees and families who have been adversely impacted by job losses across the UK. The automotive industry and the auto supply industry have faced unprecedented business challenges in recent years and the global recession has exacerbated these challenges. There has been a dramatic decline in the demand for vehicles and automotive and auto supply companies have been forced to take major actions to restructure their businesses.

Visteon UK separated from Ford in June 2000 and operated as an independent company supplying parts to Ford. In respect of Ford's obligations under the 'spin-off' agreement of 2000, I can confirm that Ford has either met or exceeded its responsibilities. These have included enabling around 560 Visteon employees to return to Ford in the last eight years, supporting operating losses and providing Visteon with ongoing and new Ford business.

While I sympathise fully with the situation in which both Visteon and its employees find themselves, Ford is striving for its own survival and is not in a position to assist Visteon in these present circumstances.

I understand that following discussions last week between representatives from the Visteon Corporation and the Unite union on the situation affecting Visteon UK employees, further discussions are planned for this week. I sincerely hope that these discussions result in a positive outcome for all concerned.

May I suggest that any specific questions concerning the Belfast Plant are referred directly to Steve Gawne, the managing director of Visteon in the UK. His details are as follows:

Mr Stephen Gawne
Managing Director
Visteon UK Limited
Visteon House
Basildon
Essex
SS14 3 WF

Yours sincerely,


John Fleming

