

# Government Office for the North East - Helping the region to grow and prosper

Government Office for the North East is the face of central government in the region, covering the policies that affect the daily lives of the people and businesses of this region – including the economy, jobs, housing and transport, education and crime reduction, young people, local government, public health and resilience.



**JONATHAN BLACKIE**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE FOR THE NORTH EAST

In recent years we have become a leaner, more strategic organisation, reducing in size by 46% to 189 people.

Our latest stakeholder survey carried out by Ipsos MORI said 81% are satisfied or very satisfied with our performance (a 9% increase since 2005).

We aim to work closely with the business community to help them understand Government policy and to listen to what they have to say. By working closely with regional partners we can feed back what is

happening on the ground to Whitehall so that it can influence central government policy-making.

We already work closely with One North East and a range of other agencies in the region including the Homes and Communities Agency, Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and local authorities. Our work with the Bank of England, CBI, TUC, Chamber of Commerce and others to take the temperature of the regional economy has been well received. The Minister for the North East, Nick Brown, made the regional economy his top priority and Government Office supports him in his engagement with business sectors, so that he can communicate the issues they face to his ministerial colleagues and feedback to businesses what Government is doing about them.

We support the 'Real Help Now' campaign making businesses and individuals aware of the range of support available to them in the economic downturn. By working with partners and the Department of Work and Pensions, we have helped to gain approval from the Future Jobs Fund for extra jobs across the whole region for young people who have been out of work.

Although already active, we want to be

better engaged with business, not just around the economy, but around the 'total business environment' that companies operate in. Our agenda covering transport, education, climate change, housing, health, community safety and crime, later life and so on, all impact on businesses, the communities they operate in, the people they employ and do business with. Jonathan Blackie, the Regional Director of GONE also takes the national lead on behalf of all nine Government Offices to ensure the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the regions work well together. He says: "The role of Government Offices has never been stronger. The growth of the regional economy and prosperity of all remains a key priority for us."



**GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST**

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