

Dear chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to wish you well and thank you for taking time to read my submission to your review committee which I will keep brief and to the point.

By way of introduction, my name is Gary Jordan and I am owner of Jordan International Transport Ltd located in Moy in Co Tyrone. We currently employ 13 people and our company has an annual turnover of £1.8 million.

We have been transporting Irish seafood to UK and Europe for over 20 years, we rely heavily on our customers, who are faced with a very real problem in terms of their product offering. A significant percentage of their customers who wish to buy Irish salmon cannot do so, as they cannot source enough of the product from their Irish suppliers due to the restrictions of the current licence process. This situation has left us trying to source work in other industries to sustain employment for our workforce and halted our plans to expand in transportation of Irish seafood, which would generate more jobs in the local community.

It surprised me that an island nation such as ours would have to import salmon from other countries and continents with the loss to the Irish economy and the ability of my business and that of the Aquaculture sector to provide local jobs for local people. There is obviously a major obstacle to farming and growing our own Irish salmon. Are we unable to issue licences, if so, why?

It seems to me that we are missing an open goal in terms of the opportunity to produce a niche product in our own country for which the market is prepared to pay a premium. Why is this the case, why is it so difficult to obtain a licence in Ireland? Is it a resources issue; is it a mind-set, why are we paying lip-service to supporting a sector which we would appear to be working against?

I would therefore implore your committee to examine and resolve whatever logjam has developed in the Irish aquaculture regulatory system. You'll be acutely aware of the raft of ambitious targets which Government has set for itself in terms of the Blue Economy, it would appear that we are a long way from delivering on these.

Sincerely,



Gary Jordan

Managing Director