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DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION SERVICES



# NEWS

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Issued on behalf of the Department of Commerce

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, RT HON ROY MASON MP ON HARLAND AND WOLFF

Harland and Wolff shares the problems facing the shipbuilding industry in Great Britain, and measures comparable to those announced today by the Secretary of State for Industry will be required to deal with it.

Government recognises that the company, like its counterparts in Great Britain, may need to be assisted to obtain orders, and the Government has already committed £60m to the support of Harland & Wolff. The Department of Commerce and the company are in close and constant touch on the subject of fresh orders.

To the extent that it is necessary to face contraction of the industry, arrangements comparable to those to be introduced for Great Britain will apply in Northern Ireland.

Likewise, Government will continue to pursue vigorously its efforts to expand employment in Northern Ireland, so that the skills of any who may become redundant are not lost to the Northern Ireland economy.

The company is also exploring, with the active encouragement of Government, all possible opportunities for diversification.

By Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Note to Editor: A copy of the statement by the Secretary of State for Industry is attached.