



**Media Release**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2016**

**Parliamentary candidates urged to let entrepreneurship thrive**

Business organisations in the North-east have jointly called on the new Scottish Government to take steps to let entrepreneurship thrive in the region.

In a letter to parliamentary candidates, the partners behind North East Business Week – Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC), Elevator, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) – outline areas they see as needing government action to reflect the needs of business.

The four key areas identified which they say should be a focus are recognising the support needed to develop entrepreneurship, the business rates system, the next stage of infrastructure investment in the region and encouraging a collaborative approach between the public and private sector to boost international expansion for business.

The partners met with all the candidates from the four main political parties during North East Business Week to discuss these issues in detail.

They say that the North-east of Scotland is already the most entrepreneurial place in Scotland, with over 1,300 new businesses set up last year, a figure which is well in excess of the 1,000 target from the previous Scottish Government.

**Ends**

**Notes to editor**

- Please find attached a copy of the letter sent out to prospective parliamentary candidates in the North-east today (Tuesday, April 26)
- The new business figure is taken from the Committee of Scottish Bankers report in 2015 and can be found here - [http://www.scotbanks.org.uk/media/new\\_business\\_to\\_q4\\_2015\\_copy2.pdf](http://www.scotbanks.org.uk/media/new_business_to_q4_2015_copy2.pdf)
- Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) is North-east Scotland's leading private sector, member-focused, business organisation. The Chamber represents more than 1,300 businesses with almost 130,000 employees in the private sector covering all industry sectors, ranging in size from sole traders to multi-national corporations.

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