

Press Release May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

## **ESF visited by Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

## ESF were visited by The Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP at the beginning of April.

At the start of April, The Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP visited ESF to meet with CEO Alan Lowry, Sales Director Karen Lowry, and Business Consultant Barry Clarke at the company's offices in Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland.

During the meeting, Alan and Karen discussed the challenges that ESF faced during the Covid-19 pandemic and how the company's expansion into local export markets helped ensure business survival. They also spoke about ESF's recent success in achieving the Queens Award for International Trade in 2021 and Alan's role as an Export Champion for Northern Ireland.



With the new Windsor framework in place, ESF is optimistic that there will be increased opportunities for Northern Irish businesses to export more easily across the world.

However, Education and Healthcare budget cuts are a significant concern for ESF, and the meeting with the Secretary of State addressed how these could potentially impact businesses that rely on education and healthcare procurement as a primary source of income.

ESF would like to express their gratitude to the Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP and his team for visiting the Environmental Street Furniture HQ and for the opportunity to discuss important issues affecting Northern Irish businesses.

## **ENDS**

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