

Introduction from Martin O'Neill to the APPG Reception on 6 July 2010

Printing, packaging and graphics communications is one of the UK's largest manufacturing industries, with sales of around £14.5 billion.

It employs around 140,000 people in about 10,500 companies.

Print is an important vehicle for advertising, education, entertainment and information. It serves all parts of the UK economy – including central and local government, financial services, retailing, distribution, travel and tourism and manufacturing industries.

Print is an advanced manufacturing sector that utilises cutting edge information and production technologies.

And together with paper and publishing, it forms part of the UK's fourth largest industry.

I am delighted to support this vibrant industry as Chairman of the All Party Group, and to welcome you to the Group's Annual Reception today. Today we will hear from Michael Johnson, the CEO of the printing employers' federation BPIF and from Tony Burke, the Assistant General Secretary of the industry's trade union Unite. We will also hear from Martyn Eustace, Director of the Two Sides campaign, which promotes the strong environmental credentials that print and paper have to offer.

Lest I forget later, can I take this opportunity to thank both our sponsors today: Two Sides and also print breakdown specialists Burnett & Associates, for supporting this event today.

And so to our first speaker, Michael Johnson.