



Chamber Comment

What a whirlwind few months it has been! In the introduction to our last newsletter, I noted that Brexit continued to dominate the headlines and, unfortunately, that remains the case today.

While the recent agreement from the European Union to extend Brexit day as far as October 2019 is welcome in helping to avoid an economically damaging 'no deal' Brexit, it

nevertheless leaves businesses once again in limbo.

Through our Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) North Highlands & Islands contract, the Chamber has been working hard to support businesses and individuals in the region through this turbulent time. In March we ran a well-attended business breakfast to help businesses prepare for Brexit, and ran drop-in sessions at local libraries for any individuals with concerns about Brexit to attend. The breakfast was livestreamed on Facebook and the archived video can be watched on our page (facebook.com/edichhi).

With the latest Article 50 extension, our work with EDIC will also be extended in line with the new deadlines. Our team will continue to be on hand to advise businesses and individuals of all the latest on Brexit, and to provide up to date information on European Parliament elections should the UK be required to take part in these.

It's safe to say that we had all hoped for a resolution of some kind to Brexit by this stage, but this has perhaps been a salutary lesson to businesses on the dangers of assuming that any political decision-making process will be smooth or predictable.

As ever, the Chamber will be on hand to support businesses through whatever the future may bring, and with the extension of our EDIC contract we remain well placed to help you navigate the choppy waters of Brexit.

Finally, it's great to see from some of the stories in this newsletter that, despite the continuing uncertainty, businesses in the North Highlands are investing, growing and looking to a positive future. We may live in uncertain times, but our business community is proving to be as resilient and positive as ever.

Trudy Morris
Chief Executive,
Caithness Chamber of Commerce

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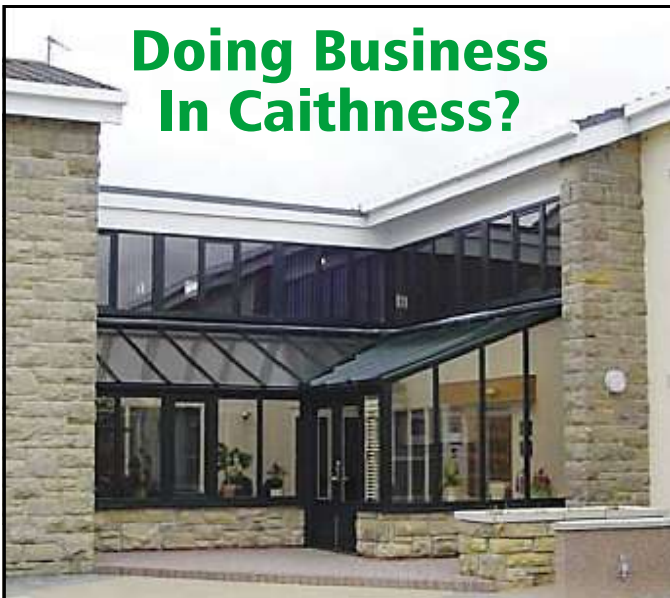
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