

# ULSTER FARMERS' UNION

475 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST, BT15 3DA

Tel: 028 90 370222

Fax: 028 90 371231

E mail: [jmcdonald@ufuhq.com](mailto:jmcdonald@ufuhq.com)

Website: [www.ufuni.org](http://www.ufuni.org)

Communications Director: Joe McDonald

## *News Release*

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Date: 01 April 2009

Cyclo No: 47/2009

### UFU WELCOME RESOLUTION TO WIND TURBINE ISSUE

The Ulster Farmers' Union has welcomed confirmation from the Agriculture Minister of the release of an ex-gratia payment to farmers who were delivered faulty wind turbines through the Wind Energy for Rural Business Project.

UFU President Graham Furey said; "The farmers involved suffered unacceptable practical and financial problems and we are very pleased that a satisfactory solution has now been achieved. The UFU highlighted from the outset of the project that the Powerbreeze Wind Turbines installed on the farms have never operated satisfactorily. We have worked closely with the affected farmers to try and resolve the situation. It was a slow and frustrating process but we are pleased that the farmers involved now have been offered ex-gratia payments".

Graham Furey added; "The farmers involved were encouraged to enter a renewable energy scheme and make a considerable investment on equipment which ultimately failed to generate them any return. It was very important that the Minister resolved this issue; her decision is good news for the farmers directly affected and it will help maintain confidence in the farming community for any further wind energy programmes which may be undertaken".

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