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## NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE

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17 June 2003

### **MURPHY ANNOUNCES MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE**

Following the Prime Minister's Government reshuffle on Friday, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Paul Murphy, has announced the portfolios of his Northern Ireland Ministerial team. Mr Murphy said:

**"I am very grateful to the Ministerial team for the work they have done in taking forward the programme of the devolved administration. I sincerely hope we will be able to return the work of the departments to the Northern Ireland Executive before long. In the meantime, I have now completed the allocation of Ministerial responsibilities to reflect the priorities of the Government.**

**I am delighted that John Spellar joins us as Minister of State with a wealth of experience in government and particular expertise in transport. He will be responsible for the Departments for Regional Development and Social Development in addition to the critical areas of political development and criminal justice.**

**Jane Kennedy will continue as Minister of State with responsibility for security, policing and prisons. Along with her existing departmental responsibilities I have also asked her to take responsibility for the Assets Recovery Agency, which will complement her important work with the Organised Crime Task Force.**

**I am appointing Ian Pearson as Minister for Europe in Northern Ireland, with special responsibility for the Euro Preparations Committee. Ian will also have responsibility for the Review of Public Administration, along with his existing departments.**

**I have asked Angela Smith to take responsibility for the Department of Health, in addition to the Departments of the Environment and Culture, Arts and Leisure.**

**I have also asked Angela to assume responsibility for Victims and Reconciliation. This reflects the Government's continuing commitment to**

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**the needs of victims and our desire to help Northern Ireland society reach a consensus on how best to deal with the past.**

**I will be taking a personal interest in all these areas, particularly that of Victims and Reconciliation, but I am grateful to the Ministers for taking on these new responsibilities.**

**I know that the Ministerial team will continue to work for the good of everyone in Northern Ireland until we are able to hand back the Northern Ireland Departments to the devolved administration."**

Notes to Editors

The full list of Ministerial responsibilities is as follows:

**Jane Kennedy (Minister of State)**

Security and Policing

Prisons

Assets Recovery Agency and Organised Crime Task Force

Department of Education

Department for Employment and Learning

**John Spellar (Minister of State)**

Political Development

Criminal Justice, Human Rights and Equality

Department for Social Development

Department for Regional Development

**Ian Pearson (Parliamentary Under Secretary)**

Europe (Euro Preparations Committee)

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Department of Finance and Personnel

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Review of Public Administration

**Angela Smith (Parliamentary Under Secretary)**

Victims and Reconciliation

Department of the Environment

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure