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10 JUL 1996

Ref 8953
Northern Ireland Office

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PAGAB.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN AND STAFF: TERMS AND CONDITIONS - DRAFT GUIDANCE

2. I am grateful to you for pulling all this together, and I hope that others will play their part by responding promptly so that we are in a position to write to the individual chairmen this week.

4. I take it that it is the Irish Government who have insisted on all the references to 'Great Britain and both parts of the island of Ireland'. This is a bore. But I fear we must bear in mind the possibility that we may need to publish some or all of this guidance at some stage. I think, as it stands, the repeated use of this phrase will raise unionist suspicions. I suggest you replace it with 'the UK and Ireland'. This can doubtless also be argued against, but it seems to me to avoid flagging this issue in quite such an obvious fashion. Perhaps Mr Bell could try and persuade his colleagues to see sense on this point.

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