



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*① a/Her Lindsay,  
NIO  
② Bambergher  
Jh 4/2.*

13 February 1997

Rt Hon John Major MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

*File  
Jh 20/2.*

Dear

*Prime Minister*

Thank you for your letter of even date.

I welcome your statement that you want to see the changes in place very soon and I hope that things will start moving soon.

I note the reference to achieving "the consensus which would normally be sought." Of course when the changes were made in Scotland, they were merely announced and they have since been accepted. Similarly when you announced these changes last October, there was no suggestion that their implementation would be subject to any veto.

I am equally sure that the changes will be welcomed by the people of Northern Ireland when they see them in operation. My only worry on that score is that the Northern Ireland Office may succeed in watering them down to the point that the Committee has no practical influence on the NIO.

I will keep you informed of my discussion with Patrick Mayhew on this and the paper handed to you on 21 January.

Sincerely

*David Trimble*

David Trimble MP