

**FAXED**  
6:41M 20/12.

**From: EDWARD OAKDEN**  
**Date: 20 December 1996**

**PRIME MINISTER**  

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**cc: Duty Press Officer**

**TERRORIST ATTACK ON NIGEL DODDS**

News is just coming in of a terrorist attack on Nigel Dodds (DUP) this evening.

It seems that he was visiting his child in the Royal Victoria Hospital. Two men approached the ward. Dodds' bodyguards recognised that they were wearing wigs, and challenged them. Shots were then exchanged. One of the bodyguards was shot in the foot. The gunmen got away.

No-one has yet claimed responsibility, but the IRA are obvious front-runners.

The Press Office will take the line that you were horrified by the attack, relieved that Dodds escaped, and only further confirmed in your condemnation of such violence and your determination that such methods will not succeed.

I attach a draft letter to Nigel Dodds, which we can fax to him as soon as you have signed it.

*Edward*

**Edward Oakden**

eo\nigel.as