

25. Mar. 1997 11:19
25/03/97 11:30

S OF S PRIVATE OFFICE 1712106722
SOS OFF. (B) → SOS OFF. (L)

No. 4399 P. 2/8
NO. 734 P001

CONFIDENTIAL: ~~APPOINTMENTS~~

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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cc FA/PS
Press

File John/4.

John Holmes Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

*Prime Minister
I mentioned this in a
note over the weekend.
Good to get the Commission
established.*

25 March 1997

Content?

*John
25/3.*

Dear John,

My Secretary of State's announcement in the House on 30 January outlined the Government's response to the Report of the Independent Review of Parades and Marches (the North Report) and, in particular, the proposal to establish an independent Parades Commission with a mediation, conciliation and education role.

Sir Patrick planned to have a Commission in place in advance of this year's marching season and proposes to issue a Press statement announcing the appointment of the Chairman (Mr Alistair Graham) and four members on 26 March: a copy of the press release providing details of the appointments is attached.

The process of identifying a Chairman with the right blend of skills, experience and background who would be willing to serve in this high profile and possibly contentious role has taken longer than we had hoped: a number of candidates felt unable to accept the offer for a variety of reasons. However, the Secretary of State is convinced that Mr Graham is almost ideal for the job, and embodies all the

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S OF S PRIVATE OFFICE 1712106722

No. 4399 P. 3/8

25/03/97 11:31

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competences necessary to make a success of it. I should add that the Opposition have indicated their agreement to the establishment of the Commission and to the appointments.

I am sending copies of this letter for information to the Private Secretaries of Members of NI and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever,

Ken

W K LINDSAY

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