

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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cc FA/PS
FA/APS
LAC

Jonathan

LETTER TO SINN FEIN

Thank you for your letter this morning to Ken Sutton.

... I attach as we subsequently agreed by telephone a revised draft of the paragraphs on prisoners. This incorporates most of the amendments which you suggested. However:

- In the first paragraph, the draft reverts to the original wording that "The Government is committed to ensuring that prisoners are treated with dignity". It seems unnecessarily provocative to associate this Government with all the actions of previous Governments in the treatment of Irish prisoners, in terms which the Irish Government - let alone Sinn Fein - would find difficult to accept. (The Patrick Kelly case is for example still very much in the front of their minds.)
- The middle paragraphs are reinstated to give details of prisoner transfers and repatriations which have already taken place or are in train, thus underlining, as the Prime Minister is concerned to do, that what we have in mind is in line with normal practice and policies.

I am copying this letter to Ken Lindsay (NIO).

Yours

DAVID REDHOUSE

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