



CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Ann Taylor MP

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Press

10 September 1997

Dear David,

**POLICING REFORM: UUP REQUEST FOR POLICE BILL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

Ann Taylor and the other Business Managers have seen Dr Mowlam's letter of 29 August to the Prime Minister and John Holmes' letter of 2 September to Ken Lindsay. I, but not Ann, have also seen Adam Ingram's letter to Ann of today's date, not copied.

In the circumstances set out in Dr Mowlam's letter, Ann is content to agree in principle that legislation on policing reform in Northern Ireland should be by way of a Bill rather than by Order in Council.

When I spoke earlier this afternoon to John Holmes, it appeared that against the backdrop of a very heavy legislative programme in the current session, this agreement in principle might be sufficient in relation to David Trimble's position. However, Mr Ingram's letter indicates that legislation in the current session is your Department's very strong preference. While the NI Grand Committee procedures in the Commons would certainly assist if this Bill had to be added to the programme, the Lords do not have these arrangements and may well have concerns about overload.

Please would you indicate quickly the clear view of the Secretary of State on whether a Bill is needed in the current session. If Dr Mowlam feels that it is, I will seek to arrange an early meeting of the Business Managers to consider this, if possible with Dr Mowlam. When you reply, would you please address also the question of whether it would be sufficient for the Bill to be

introduced this session, possibly after consultation on a draft Bill, with Royal Assent delayed until the second session.

I am copying this, along with Mr Ingram's letter, to John Holmes (No10), John Grant (FCO), Ken Sutton (HO), Lesley Bainsfair (LPS), Murdo Maclean (CW), Simon Burton (CWL) and to Jan Polley.

*Y.m.*

*Paul Cohen*

PAUL COHEN  
Principal Private Secretary