

C O N F I D E N T I A L

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT (Short Version)

1. I have now decided that, following the unequivocal restoration of the IRA ceasefire, Sinn Féin has met the requirements specified in the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc.) Act 1996. In reaching this decision I have considered all the relevant information available to me.

2. I am accordingly inviting the nominating representative of that party to nominate a team to participate in the Talks, as, given the judgement I have reached, I must do by virtue of Section 2(2) of the Act.

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