

CONFIDENTIAL

TAB D

IRISH LANGUAGE

- * Government recognises importance of the Irish language for many people in Northern Ireland as part of their cultural heritage
- * understand and welcome the fact that you will be meeting Tony Worthington next week (18 December) to discuss a set of proposals on education through the medium of Irish which was presented to Mo Mowlam a number of weeks ago
- * Government supporting efforts to create film production industry in Northern Ireland using EU and Lottery funds, for which Irish language film/programme makers can apply
- * UK and Irish officials are working with the broadcasters towards agreeing an implementation plan to extend the RTE signal within Northern Ireland. Along with RTE 1 and RTE 2 Teilifis na Gæilge (the Irish Language Broadcasting channel) will also benefit from increased penetration of RTE in Northern Ireland.
- * **[if raised]** Government considering the implications of signing the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages, which could enhance the status of Irish in Northern Ireland.