

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY  
RESTRICTED - APPOINTMENTS



C: KW  
PB  
AC  
HOUSE OF LORDS,  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

18 February 1998

John Holmes  
Principal Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

File  
19/2.

Dear John,

**BLOODY SUNDAY INQUIRY**

Thank you for your letter of 12 February.

We have since spoke on the telephone. Arrangements to appoint the Honourable William Hoyt are now fairly well in hand. Lord Saville has spoken to him and has made tentative arrangements to fly out and see him in Canada.

Sir Daryl Dawson has, however, after reflecting on matters over the weekend, decided that his other commitments mean he is unable to assist the UK Government with this Inquiry. We have been in touch with Sir Edward Somers in New Zealand and he is willing to undertake this task. Lord Saville has also spoken to him.

We spoke about the timing of an announcement and who should do this. I think it would be appropriate to come from your office but should be grateful if you would take no steps to do so until I contact you again. We have agreed to give advance notice to the people the Lord Chancellor has been consulting if possible, and this seems sensible and courteous. The Lord Chancellor also suggests that it would be helpful for the Prime Minister to write and thank the Prime Minister of Canada for his assistance.

I am copying this letter to John Grant (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office) and Jan Polly (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever  
Jag  
JENNY ROWE