



10 DOWNING STREET
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for policing team
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From the Principal Private Secretary

3 February 1998

Dear Ken,

**CONSULTATION PAPER ON POLICE/COMMUNITY LINKS
IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Prime Minister was grateful for Dr Mowlam's minute of 21 January, asking for policy clearance for a consultation paper on police/community links in Northern Ireland. The Prime Minister is content for this to be launched as proposed, as long as Dr Mowlam is confident that it is not likely to raise major alarms in either community at a delicate time, given the great sensitivity of policing issues in Northern Ireland. Are the main parties aware of what is coming? If not, would it be worth briefing them in advance to ensure they are not taken by surprise when the consultation paper is launched?

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of other members of IN Committee, Ken Thomson (Scottish Office), Mark Taylor (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
John Holmes

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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