

## RESTRICTED

## CRITICAL PATH ANALYSIS (last update 18 March 1998)

Week Commencing	The Agreement & Referendum - Key Stages	Other Significant Events Square Brackets indicate provisional
16 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Talks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* parties deliberate on range of talks papers</li> <li>* bilaterals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 19th: <b>Decommissioning Order</b> debated in Lords</li> <li>• 20th: submission on <b>flags &amp; emblems</b> with Ministers</li> <li>• notify HMSO (and Royal Mail/Distributor) to <b>prepare for Command Paper</b></li> <li>• first position papers on <b>preparing the NIO and NI Departmental structures for devolution</b> ready</li> <li>• first draft of text for targeting Young Voters ready.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>St Patrick's Day celebrations.</b></li> <li>• 14-18th: SoS in US</li> <li>• [16th]: UN (critical) Report on Human Rights in NI published</li> <li>• 16-17th: Agricultural Council, Brussels</li> <li>• 17th: Budget [possibly move of 200 SSA staff to Inland Revenue]</li> <li>• 18th: Murphy giving Political Development Seminar, N.Belfast</li> <li>• 19th: Saville Tribunal Press Conference, QE2 Centre</li> <li>• 21st: Parades Commission issues its (non-binding) "preliminary view" about a number of contentious parades, including Drumcree</li> <li>• 21st: SoS at WIRE Peace Celebration, Warrington</li> <li>• [Narey report published]</li> </ul>

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23 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intensive Talks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* [table paper on <b>prisoners</b>]</li> <li>* show parties the text of the draft Referendum Order</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finalise <b>propriety</b> issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [announcement re: prisoner releases, if appropriate]</li> <li>• [HMI Prisons' inspection of HMP Maze commences]]</li> <li>• 22/23rd: Visit to NI by SoS for Wales</li> <li>• 23rd: SoS at NI Partnership Conf.</li> <li>• 24/5th: decision on Springvale, followed by public announcement on Springvale &amp; Odyssey</li> <li>• 25/26th: judicial review of the Fisher &amp; Wright case</li> <li>• 26/27th: SoS &amp; Murphy at BIA Young Politicians Conference</li> <li>• [Narey report published]</li> <li>• HMI Prisons' inspection of HMP Maze concludes</li> <li>• 31st: Launch of Vision Statement for Londonderry</li> <li>• 31st: L.Dubs spkg at Local Government Conference.</li> <li>• 1st: SoS giving evidence to NI Affairs Committee on RUC</li> <li>• 3rd: Saville Tribunal in Derry</li> <li>• 6 April: launch of New Deal</li> <li>• [Saville Tribunal opening statement]</li> <li>• Parades Comm announces its formal, legalling binding, decision on an ABD parade on the Ormeau Road</li> <li>• [9th: likely start of Parl'y recess]</li> <li>• Firearms consultation paper published</li> </ul>
30 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intensive Talks</b></li> <li>• notify <b>Whips</b> of dates for Referendum Order &amp; Elections Bill debates (w/c 20 &amp; 27 April) plus send draft Order to officials at JCSI</li> <li>• voter information leaflet drop</li> <li>• draft plans on <b>preparing the NIO for devolution</b> ready</li> <li>• proposals on accommodation, staffing &amp; finance for <b>new Assembly</b> with Ministers [DoE &amp; DFP]</li> </ul>	
6 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9th: TALKS END. ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT</b></li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final text of Command Paper to HMSO for printing</li> <li>• Command Paper laid before Parliament &amp; published</li> <li>• draft British/Irish Agreement signed</li> <li>• Irish legislation introduced.</li> <li>• circulate guidance on propriety issues [IPL &amp; DFP]</li> </ul>	

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13 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>draft <b>Prisoners Bill</b> ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Easter</b></li> </ul>
20 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Referendum Order &amp; Elections Bill</b> debated in both Houses.</li> <li>copies of Agreement distributed to households.</li> <li>[legislation to extinguish the NI Forum]</li> <li>22nd: <b>Irish legislation</b> passed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13th Apprentice Boys - Ormeau Road</li> <li>[Likely return of Parlt - 20th]</li> <li>26th: Orange Widows - Ormeau Road</li> </ul>
27 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29th: Referendum Order &amp; Elections Bill signed/[Royal Assent]</li> <li>1st: Start of Referendum Campaign</li> <li>poll cards sent out.</li> <li>scrutiny of absent voter forms.</li> </ul>	
4 May		
11 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>postal ballot papers sent out.</li> <li>[Election Order]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[review of emergency legislation published]</li> </ul>
18 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>22nd: REFERENDUM</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[visit of President Clinton]</li> </ul>
25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>25th: start of Election Campaign</b></li> <li>establish <b>Policing commission</b> (no legislation required)</li> <li>Direct Rule renewal (expires mid-July)</li> <li>12th: end of consultation period on <b>Equality White Paper</b></li> <li>finalise programme for consultation and other purposive activity by the Assembly before it assumes its real responsibilities</li> <li>Assembly building (&amp; other logistical support) ready</li> <li><b>25th: ELECTION</b></li> </ul>	
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 June: "Tour of the North" parade</li> <li>27 June: "Whiterock" parade</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29th: <b>Settlement Bill</b> (const. provns. &amp; key equality measures) introduced</li> <li>29th: <b>Prisoners Bill</b> introduced</li> <li>[infrastructure for new IGC, Council of Isles and N/S Council operational]</li> </ul>	

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<b>July</b>  <b>August</b> <b>September</b> <b>October</b> <b>November</b> <b>December</b> <b>January 1999</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Settlement Bill</b> through all Parliamentary stages to Royal Assent</li> <li>• <b>Prisoners Bill</b> through all Parliamentary stages to Royal Assent</li> <li>• [Prisoners Commission established]</li> <li>• [phase in arrangements for devolution in the NIO]</li> <li>• NIO &amp; Departments ready for end of Direct Rule</li> <li>• [End of Direct Rule]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5th: "The Twelfth" Church parades (including Drumcree)</li> <li>• 13th: Annual Twelfth parades</li> <li>• 8th: Apprentice Boys, Derry</li> </ul>

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