



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 May 1996

### MEETING WITH DISTRICT COUNCILS

Thank you for your letter of 2 May recommending that, rather than reschedule the event that had been planned to take place in Downing Street in February, the Prime Minister instead host an event for District Councils during an Autumn visit to the Province.

The Prime Minister agrees that this would be a sensible way forward. Not the least of its attractions is that, if the event includes next year's Chairmen, as well as this year's, that should help to deflect pressure for a similar event to be held in Downing Street next February, thus relieving slightly the pressure on next year's diary. It would, in any case, be good to avoid a Prime Ministerial meeting at Downing Street with the District Councils becoming institutionalised as an annual event.

I should be grateful if you could therefore build into your planning for a future Prime Ministerial visit to Northern Ireland the sort of event described in the penultimate paragraph of your letter.

EDWARD OAKDEN

David Kyle Esq  
Northern Ireland Office

Ed