

Councillor Reginald N.M. Empey  
O.B.E., B.Sc (Econ)  
Pottinger Electoral Area



My ref: 1151/RE/DR

Your ref:

9th January 1996

Rt Hon Dr Brian Mawhinney MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dear Brian,*

Belfast City Council is planning to host a major international Economic Development Conference on 1st, 2nd and 3rd May 1996.

The proposed theme for the Conference is sharing successful experience. Through this we intend to highlight some of the positive aspects of Economic Development in Belfast and Northern Ireland while working at successful models worldwide.

We would see such a conference building upon the Council's own vision conference of 1993, on the positive developments arising from the Prime Ministers Investment Conference in December 1994 and the Washington Conference in May 1995. The latter provided the opportunity to present a positive image of Belfast and Northern Ireland, one which was warmly welcomed.

The Conference forms an important part of the Council's Economic Development Action Plan for 1996 and is evidence of the leadership role local authorities can play in Economic Development in partnership with the Private sector and Government. We are joined in this endeavour by the Department of Environment through the Belfast Development Office which is co-sponsoring this conference.

I would appreciate your support in gaining the participation of the Prime Minister as the keynote speaker at the Conference. I believe his support or that of the Chancellor would provide very positive evidence of support for the Council's efforts and of that of the City to present Belfast as a prosperous enterprising City.

I would of course be happy to meet with you to discuss this, and look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

*Reg*  
REG EMPEY  
CHAIRMAN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Encs

Councillor Reginald N.M. Empey O.B.E., B.Sc (Econ)

100 SANDOWN ROAD, BELFAST BT5 6GX