

JTA/MA

8/11/88

Rev Martin Smyth  
117 Cregagh Road  
BELFAST  
BT6

Re: Joint Statement on Health.

I have had enquiries from Douglas Paulin of the Eastern Board, and Quinton Oliver of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Both have expressed an interest in meeting with the three of us on the subject of our Joint Statement. I have spoken to Joe, and he is happy to go ahead with such meetings, and have tried to contact you by telephone, but unfortunately have been unsuccessful.

If you would be agreeable, perhaps you would drop me a note, and I will make the necessary contacts.

Best wishes.

Dr John T Alderdice  
PARTY LEADER

JTA/MA

8/11/38

Quinton Oliver  
c/o NICVA  
127 Ormeau Road  
BELFAST  
BT7 1SH

Re: Joint Statement on Health.

My apologies for the delay in response to your letter, but it has been caused by some difficulty in getting hold of Martin Smyth.

I have spoken to Joe Hendron, and we are both agreeable to a meeting, but it would clearly be a greater value if Martin Smyth could come along.

I have therefore written to him on the subject, and will contact you as soon as I have a response from him.

Best wishes.

Dr John T Alderdice  
PARTY LEADER

# NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION

127 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 1SH. Telephone 0232-321224

6 October 1988

Dr John Alderdice  
Alliance Party Headquarters  
88 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7

*Dear Dr Alderdice,*

Joint Statement on Health

I am remiss in not yet having followed up your excellent joint statement on the Health and Social Services of Tuesday last; you may have noticed, however, that NICVA issued a supportive press release on the Wednesday, commending the three Parties for their initiative and endorsing the thrust of your joint recommendations.

I think it would be helpful if we could arrange an early meeting, hopefully with the three Parties, all of whom I am writing to in the same terms.

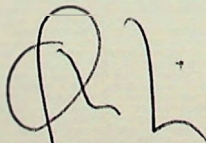
As you know the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action coordinates the voluntary sector and has for many years found the structure of the health and personal social services militating against genuine participation and consultation; we therefore found your intervention timely and helpful in raising some key issues about genuine partnership within Northern Ireland between government and the community.

If you have a mechanism for pursuing your tripartite venture and the appetite for further discussions with the voluntary sector on this matter, could one of you contact my secretary, Robertha Brown, at this number to arrange an exploratory meeting?

I very much look forward to hearing from you and to working with you on this critical issue.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Quintin Oliver  
DIRECTOR

Hiss  
+ g u e

JTA/MA

10/10/88

Mr Douglas Paulin OBE MA  
Chairman of the Eastern Board  
Londonderry House  
Chichester Street  
BELFAST  
BT1

Further to our telephone conversation, please find enclosed a copy of the joint statement which was recently published in the local newspapers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr John T Alderdice  
PARTY LEADER

W

Rev Martin Smyth MP, Ulster Unionist Health Spokesman and a member of the House of Commons Select Committee on Health and Social Services, Dr Joe Hendron, SDLP Health and Social Service Spokesman, and Alliance Leader Dr John Alderdice, have issued a joint statement of concern on the subject of Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland.

"We have joined together to express our growing concern at the Government's handling of the Health and Welfare services for the people of Northern Ireland.

Whilst appreciating that finance is not the answer to every problem, we are opposed to the decision by Government to reduce the per capita spending on Health in Northern Ireland. Like Scotland with whom we have much in common a higher level of expenditure has been required, not only because of the scatter of population, the high levels of unemployment and social deprivation, the virtual absence of private alternatives, and the absence of economies of scale in a province of 1½ million, but also because of the high value placed on care of the sick, the handicapped and those who are less fortunate. These values are further demonstrated by the high level of support for voluntary bodies and charitable appeals in Northern Ireland, and by the massive street demonstrations in support of the Health Service, held all over the province earlier this year. Government is distancing itself ever further from democracy in Northern Ireland if it continues to ignore the values held by the people whom they are governing.

For some thirty years it has been realized that it was preferable for most patients to be cared for in the community rather than being removed to large institutions. We applaud this concept of care in the community, however we are aware that it is not a cheap option and we are wary of rapid retraction of institutional care in advance of the provision of adequate resources in the community. Adequate resources must also include the training of staff to work in this new and different mode and context. Further, it is self evident that there will still be a need for some individuals, because of the nature of their disorder or their requirements, to be cared for in centralized facilities with specialized provision.

All public bodies have a particular duty to ensure that they constantly review and upgrade their standards, efficiency and effectiveness. We therefore welcome all genuine attempts to audit the use of financial resources and manpower. We recognize however that measures of productivity and efficiency lack validity, in the field of health care, if they fail to take due account of the needs of the patients, their families, their communities and the welfare of the caring staff upon whom the whole service depends.

We have already alluded to the absence of real democratic accountability of Health and Welfare in Northern Ireland. We are also perturbed that the management systems throughout the service are becoming increasingly out of control. This is most clearly demonstrated in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board. We believe that this is arising in spite of much concentration on management skills and systems because of a fundamental flaw in the form of government, where there is no audit of management by the community through its elected representatives."

Rev Martin Smyth MP

Belfast 457009

Dr Joe Hendron

Belfast 665452

Dr John Alderdice

Belfast 324274/793097



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 MORNINGTON  
ANNADALE AVENUE  
BELFAST BT7 3JS  
N. Ireland

20. 9. 88

Dear John,

I have read your suggested  
release incorporating the points made  
in our discussion

Deprivation should be deprivation

The rest should stand although  
there may be debate on the concluding  
sentence.

Yours

Marty

0-  
H. 25

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Ring M. Smith

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(J.H  
665452)

● Rev. S. to ring back  
with dates

XIII C. Road X

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

11-00

TRY X11-15X

Good

"

1ST APRIL

11-00

check  
the location

From: The Reverend W. Martin Smyth, MP.  
(Belfast, South)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Reply to:-  
117 Cregagh Road  
BELFAST BT6 0LA

Phone:- Belfast  
0232 - 457009

Our ref WMS/mf

Your ref JTA/ER/P.L./PP Mtgs/HSS

18th February 1988

Dr. John Alderdice  
Party Leader  
The Alliance Party  
Headquarters  
88 University Street  
BELFAST BT7 1HE

Dear John

Thank you for your combined letter. You will appreciate that I have been working with the Select Committee in doing some other work. I am not sure, quite frankly, what has been achieved by the some of the so-called joint meetings because in the end it has been left for some of us to carry on the work.

However, over the next fortnight I am under tremendous pressure and will find it difficult to have a meeting but if you can arrange it we will see what we can do to fit in with you.

Yours sincerely

W. Martin Smyth



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20/2/1988

Dear John

Thank you for your letter regarding  
the Health Service in Northern Ireland. I have  
delivered protests in the House & to Stormont  
The Government reacts in the same way as  
it responds (or I should say - fails to respond)  
to the demands of Labour, letters sent  
at Westminster. I have also requested  
a debate & I am repeating that demand  
again in the House.

This is an issue which requires an  
Party Support  
Yours sincerely  
Jim Kiefelder