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Office of the  
MINISTER FOR FINANCE

Our Ref 95/0996/MF

31 March 1995

Councillor Dr John Alderdice  
Alliance H Q  
88 University Street  
Belfast BT7 1HE

Dear John,

In my Budget Speech in February last I announced that I was providing for free cross-border journeys for pensioners in both parts of the country.

The motivation for this initiative stems from my firm belief that the encouragement of cross-border travel can make a worthwhile contribution to the further development of the peace and reconciliation process on this island. I am glad to say that reaction to the initiative has been very positive, both in the North and in the South. Many individuals have told me that they see it as a practical example of what needs to be done to bring people from both sides of the border together on a much more frequent, open and friendly basis. I believe the initiative will prove very successful in this regard.

Following my Budget day announcement, discussions commenced between officials from both jurisdictions. Operational and contractual arrangements are now being finalised with the individual transport carriers involved, in consultation with the relevant authorities in the North. I am pleased to inform you that it is intended that the scheme will come into operation with effect from 1 July 1995.

The main features of the scheme are set out in the attached note.

I look forward to the launch of the new scheme and I would ask you to lend it your support and encouragement.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Ruairi Quinn TD  
Minister for Finance

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