

SIR P MAYHEW OFFERED TO RESIGN?

Option 1

Never comment on speculation like that. Sir Patrick Mayhew has the Prime Minister's full confidence in his job as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Option 2

No idea what may have been said in private. Sir Patrick Mayhew made it clear in his letter [to John Smith] that he accepted full Ministerial responsibility for the errors in the documents placed in the Vote Office. He has the Prime Minister's full support in continuing his difficult job as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Option 3

Sir Patrick Mayhew made it clear in his letter [to John Smith] that he accepted full Ministerial responsibility for the errors in the documents placed in the Vote Office. He formally offered his resignation, but the Prime Minister of course asked him to continue in office, which he agreed to do. As has been made clear, the errors did not change the sense of the messages; they arose from the speed with which the dossier had to be prepared over the weekend.

Jonathan Stephens
We discussed: grateful
for news.
Alex Allan
13/12