



NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE

13 June 2003

MURPHY WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Paul Murphy has welcomed the appointment of John Spellar as Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office. Mr Spellar replaces Des Browne who has been appointed as Minister of State in the Department of Work and Pensions.

Notes to Editors

Ministerial responsibilities within the Northern Ireland Office team will be confirmed early next week.

The Rt Hon John Spellar MP was appointed Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office on 13 June 2003.

The former Minister of Transport has been Member of Parliament for Warley, West Midlands since 1997. He has previously served in the Ministry of Defence, where he was Minister of State for the Armed Forces from July 1999 and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State from 1997.

Born in Bromley in 1947, Mr Spellar was educated at Bromley Parish Primary School, Dulwich College and St Edmund's Hall, Oxford (Philosophy, Politics, Economics). He was a Bromley Borough Councillor from 1970 to 1974 and was elected as the MP for Birmingham Northfield from 1982 to 1983. He was elected as the MP for Warley West in 1992 and Warley in 1997.

For the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, Mr Spellar was Res. Officer from 1969 to 1976 and National Officer from 1976 to 1992. He was appointed Opposition Whip with responsibility for Employment, Trade and Industry and Parliamentary Business from 1992 to 1994. He was Opposition Spokesman on Northern Ireland from 1994 to 1995, and on Defence from 1995 to 1997. He also served on the Energy Select Committee from 1982 to 1983.

Married with one daughter, his personal interests are gardening and reading.

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