

ALD2/2/10/1/212



Minister of State

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
STORMONT CASTLE
BELFAST BT4 3ST

Tel. Belfast (01232) 520700
Facsimile 528202

Dr John Alderdice
Alliance Party
88 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1HE

/ April 1996

Dear Dr Alderdice,

The plans announced by the Prime Minister on 21 March for an election in Northern Ireland leading to all-party negotiations envisaged the use of a constituency list system. The schedule of parties that will be able to take part in the election will be set out in legislation. I am attaching to this letter a consultation paper we are issuing today, including a draft of the schedule that, subject to views, the Government plans to put to Parliament. It is based on parties that have secured significant support at recent parliamentary or European elections, or have been closely involved in recent consultations on the political process.

There will also be a need to identify an individual within each party, who will put forward the lists of candidates for the election, and may later be invited to nominate teams to all-party negotiations. The paper includes, for each of the parties included, the name of the person the Secretary of State would propose to turn to.

The Government are of course ready to listen to representations on the proposals relating to the designation of parties and individuals; but because of the tight timescale for legislation, they would need to be received by noon on 10 April.

Yours sincerely,
M Angram

THE RT HON MICHAEL ANGRAM QC DL MP
Minister for Political Development
(Approved by Michael Angram and signed in his absence)