

5 June 1996,

Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP,
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,
Northern Ireland Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Dear Sir Patrick,

Northern Ireland Forum

Thank you for your two letters of 4th inst.

First Meeting

We would welcome an early confirmation of the date of the first meeting in order to facilitate arrangements.

Procedure

We have no particular comments to make.

Interim Chairman

I have discussed this with my colleagues and we have no proposals which we wish to make.

Premises

Clearly the premises proposed are less than ideal, but no more viable alternatives seem to be available.

Reporting of Proceedings

We welcome the assurance that these are to hand.

Staffing

We have no comments to make.

Alliance Negotiating Team

I would wish to nominate the following representatives to form the Alliance Negotiating Team:

Dr John Alderdice, Councillor Seamus Close, Alderman Sean Neeson, Councillor Steve McBride, Councillor Eileen Bell, Sir Oliver Napier, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, all these being members elected to the Forum.

Councillor David Ford, our Party General Secretary will be responsible for the necessary administrative arrangements, and I have forwarded his name and the above details to Mr Dickinson.

I trust that this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Alderdice
PARTY LEADER