



The Lord Alderdice of Knock
House of Lords
LONDON
SW1A 0PW

31 July 1997

Dear John

During the course of the debate on the Appropriation (No 2) (NI) Order 1997 on 8 July, you asked for an assurance that the water industry in Northern Ireland would not be privatised under the new administration given the extensive political and community opposition to such a proposal when made by the previous administration. I am convinced that we must address urgently the means of securing the capital funds necessary for the provision of water and sewerage services to increase water quality and effluent standards, and am currently considering alternative means of organising the delivery of these services in Northern Ireland.

At this early stage all options are being examined and it is unlikely that a decision on the way forward will be announced before the end of the year.

I hope that you will find this reply helpful.

Yours

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LORD DUBS