

# Alliance

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## " P R E S S R E L E A S E "

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### Alderdice - itinerary and comments

The Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, is in London and Oxford today for a series of meetings.

His first meeting is with the Leader of the Opposition, Tony Blair, at 4.15pm. The main subject for discussion will be the political and security situation.

Following that meeting John Alderdice will go on to engage the other Party Leaders in a meeting with the Prime Minister in the House of Commons. While the meeting was originally called to discuss the planned axing of the education boards, the Alliance Leader will also use the meeting to raise his and the other Parties' concerns over the proposed Axa cuts.

Speaking on the Axa cuts he said:

"The Axa scheme is ethically flawed, socially and regressive, and is regarded very highly both within and outside Northern Ireland for its basis of greed. As well as the immediate benefits for the politicians, it has helped to create over £100m tax-Axa jobs. Instead of raising the standards the government should be building on it's successes."

Speaking on the Education Board proposal he said:

"It is sad that the Prime Minister has been going to meet with us and trying to mind the vulnerability of the government. I think the main concern is a question that a real breakthrough could be made by us working in cooperation on this issue. The level of co-operation between the Parties, the Education Board and the community as a whole has been good so far and we have raised the issue with all the parties involved over this issue."

Following the meeting with the Prime Minister, Lord Alderdice will participate at the Oxford Union debate on Northern Ireland & it's other social political issues in Northern Ireland.

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