



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
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7 January 1998

Dear John,

I have carefully considered all the names put forward by Northern Ireland's political parties for appointment to the Committee of the Regions. I have decided to re-appoint the two current members, Mr Reg Empey and Mr Denis Haughey for a further four years.

When considering who to appoint as their alternates I had to bear in mind, as I mentioned in my letter of 28 November, that alternates will usually be expected to deputise for the members and members will therefore generally wish to have alternates of the same or similar political outlook. It is not possible to represent all the diverse political viewpoints in Northern Ireland on the COR and I have therefore decided to appoint Mr George Savage and Mr John Fee, as alternates from the same parties as the members.

I can appreciate that you will be particularly disappointed by this decision given Sean Neeson's outstanding contribution during the past four years. Nevertheless I hope that you will be able to support the work of Northern Ireland's representatives on the COR in the coming years.

MARJORIE MOWLAM