



Northern Ireland Office  
Parliament Buildings  
Belfast BT4 3ST

Lord Alderdice of Knock  
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland  
88 University Street  
BELFAST  
BT7 1HE

16 April 1998

Dear John,

As you know, the referendum on the Belfast agreement will take place on May 22nd. The Government intends to put through the necessary legislation to enable this during the course of next week.

Inevitably, this is a very tight deadline. I thought it would be helpful therefore to show the parties broadly what the draft Order would look like. Subject to typographical changes, we intend to lay the attached draft on Monday.

I would particularly draw your attention to the provisions about free mail drops. The Order applies, with modifications, section 91 of the 1983 Representation of the People Act. As a result, all 10 parties which were successful in the 1996 elections will be entitled to send material post free.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marjorie Mowlam".

MARJORIE MOWLAM