

11 May 1998,

Mr Roger Courtney,
Chief Executive,
Simon Community,
57 Fitzroy Avenue,
BELFAST BT7 1HT

Thank you for taking the trouble to write and let us know of your decision to stand down as Chief Executive of Simon. I must say that Joan and I were both surprised. It is almost impossible to think of Simon without thinking of yourself. You have done a tremendous job over the years, and it is largely through your leadership that Simon has become such a leading organisation in the whole of the voluntary sector.

We both wish you all that is good in your new direction, and trust that you will continue to be enriched, and to give enrichment, as you have done for so many people in the last seventeen years.

Thank you also for your kind words about the Agreement. It is a new beginning, but there is a huge amount of work to do to move our society away from the institutionalised and endemic sectarianism which plagues it. I am sure that in some way you will continue to play your role in that work too.

If you are ever coming over to London during parliamentary time, let me know, and we should have a drink together at the Lords.