


18 July 1998,

Dr Richard Hayes,


You kindly wrote to me some weeks ago with good wishes on the achievement of the Good Friday Agreement. I must apologise for being so slow to reply but the days following have been very crowded, with the campaign for the Referendum, the elections to the new Assembly, and now the implementation of the Agreement in legislation and in practice.

Despite the many difficulties, and recent days have sometimes been very worrying, I have continued to be encouraged and buoyed up by people like you, who have taken the trouble to be in touch, and give support.

I remain optimistic for our beloved land, and determined to continue to do all I can to build a peaceful future for our long-suffering people.

Again my thanks for your encouragement, for your welcome and your arrangements on my visit, and for the copy of 'Liberal Tradition', which I read with great interest on one of my European jaunts, in between talks and elections! Looking forward to picking up on our chat at Legal Sea Foods, perhaps some time next year?