

Prime Minister

I have checked with our Amb. in Dublin that we really have to have as many as 8 on the Irish side. He says we do - i.e. dinner for 16.

Sue Goodchild suggests that we put a table in the Pillared Room as this is too many for small dining Room.

Consent?

RML.

Der Roderic,

Meeting with the Irish Prime Minister, 16 June

Thank you for your letter of 21 May.

Our Ambassador has passed on the details of arrangements to the Irish. They are content with what you propose.

The Irish would like to bring a team of eight for the talks. This would probably be:

The Taoiseach
The Tanaiste
The Minister of Justice
The Secretary to the Government
The Secretary of Foreign Affairs
The Secretary of Justice
The Irish Ambassador
The Head of the Anglo-Irish Division, DFA
(Mr O' hUiginn)

The Irish Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr Dorr, attaches particular importance to the Irish Ambassador and Mr O hUiginn being present. In our view it is in our interests that both Mr Dorr and Mr Dalton (Secretary for Justice) should accompany their Ministers. Mr Dalton has been particularly helpful over security matters.

The Irish are assuming that the agenda for discussions will include preparations for the European Summit and Northern Ireland political talks and that we shall want to touch on cross-border security cooperation. The balance of their team reflects this. They have in mind that final agreement on the balance of discussions might be reached when British and Irish senior officials meet over dinner on 9 June.



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Letter to FCO
London SW1A 2AH

B/F 1 week

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Eight a side would permit ministers to be joined by the Cabinet Secretary, a senior official from both the Northern Ireland Office and FCO and a Private Secretary. Our Ambassador will come over from Dublin.

I am copying this letter to Jonathan Stephens (NIO) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office)

Yours ever,

Stephens,

(J S Smith)
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
10 Downing Street

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