

From: Roderic Lyne
Date: 17 December 1993

PRIME MINISTER

cc Duty Clerk
Paddy Feeney

YOUR ARTICLE FOR "SUNDAY LIFE"

The article has now been through the NIO filter, and has, to my surprise, largely survived the blue pencil of Chilcot and Co.

They have suggested small amendments, all of which I regard as improvements. They are underlined in the revised version which follows this note.

Jonathan Haslam has suggested that the first paragraph might be reordered as follows:-

There is no issue more important than ending violence in Northern Ireland. Of the problems I have faced over the past three years, it has stood out above all others. It has touched the deepest emotions of people throughout the United Kingdom. It has threatened the values we stand for and the way of life we believe in.

I don't have strong views either way, but marginally prefer the opening in the text.

I suggest that you take another look at the piece in the morning, with a fresh eye. Kate could feed any adjustments down here. Paddy Feeney is ready then to fax the text to the newspaper. It would be a kindness to let them have it by midday, though 4pm is their absolute deadline.

Jonathan has made arrangements for the article to be picked up by the Monday papers here. He can explain this to you if you wish.

Roderic