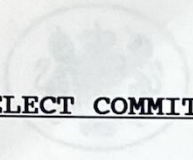


*Insured*



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS**

**Lines to Take**

- The Government will consider the Procedure Committee's conclusions in its recent report, consult other parties, and announce a decision in due course.
- There is obviously some value in having a Select Committee to look at the affairs of Northern Ireland rather than 6 separate Select Committees looking at Northern Ireland's affairs.

*Sam Finlay*

Thank you for your letter of 27 May about the possibility that you might re-activate your contacts with Sinn Fein.

The Government continues to hold to its frequently expressed view that so long as Sinn Fein endorses violence we will not engage with them as if they were a normal democratic party. (Obviously Ministers and some Government officials will have direct or indirect contact with elected Sinn Fein representatives in respect of local matters and constituency issues. The way these contacts are handled is a matter of public record.)

The Government does not, however, seek to attract the same on others. For instance, in relation to the possibility surrounding John Hume's recent meetings with Gerry Adams, I have, if asked, taken the line that John Hume is himself best placed to judge whether or not such meetings are desirable in the circumstances.

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