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# NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION

2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JR Telephone 0232-640011

9 February 1987

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Stormont  
BELFAST BT4



Dear Secretary of State,

THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE "ADJOURNMENT" STRATEGY

I am writing to express our continued and growing concern about the effect of the adjournment strategy being practised by many unionist controlled councils on the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

We have conducted some research and analysis of the difficulties, described in the enclosed paper. We believe that we have identified some underlying problems which are not even being addressed by the intervention of the Commissioner and we have identified some accumulating problems which are having a serious impact on the development of the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

Our fears are growing despite the partial easing of the position in Belfast, with the conduct of some normal business at the 2nd February meeting. We anticipate continued difficulties over the next few months, which will bring the problem to a head with the end of the financial year.

I am addressing this letter to you since we are still unclear as to where responsibility lies between the Northern Ireland departments; we appreciate the interest and involvement of the Department of Education, but the Department of the Environment also has a lead role through its local government powers, and the DHSS has a significant interest through its social policy involvement.

We would therefore be grateful for your guidance on where our representations should be directed and with whom we should seek a meeting to discuss the implications more fully.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Quintin Oliver".

Quintin Oliver  
DIRECTOR

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