

E.P.

PC/5/16

DWIL

cc. PS/Ministers (B&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Mr Bloomfield  
NI Perm Secs  
Mr Brennan  
Mr Stephens  
Mr Buxton  
Mr Chesterton  
Mr Gilliland  
Mr Merifield  
Mr Palmer  
Mr Hamilton (DOE)  
Mr Reeve  
Mr Pearson  
Miss Owens  
Mr Coote  
Mr Sullivan  
Mr Bickham  
Mr Carlisle

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

DERRY/LONDONDERRY

1. You asked for advice on the letter of 9 May from the Town Clerk to Derry City Council which asks the Secretary of State "to instruct all Government Departments and organisations to allow their staff to use either "Derry" or "Londonderry" on official correspondence." The following advice has been agreed with DOE and PAB.
- ... 2. As the attached Press clippings make clear, the Council's letter is part of the continuing hassle over the name change issue. Although the Town Clerk's letter fails to make the context clear, the Council is not referring in this instance to the name of the District Council (which is now "Derry" for all formal and informal purposes) but to the official postal address which (like the name of the City itself) is still "Londonderry" (reflecting the former County Londonderry) and which is shown as such on the Town Clerk's own letter! The real effect of the Council's proposal is therefore to invite Council staff and public servants to indicate where they stand on the name-change issue. As such its effect would be to intensify the divisive nature of this debate, and it is not quite the pluralist gesture which it might appear at first sight!
3. Our position should therefore be that government bodies will consistently use the current terminology for the both the City Council and its postal address, and ... the attached draft reply makes this clear.

*P Carvill*

P CARVILL  
Central Secretariat  
16 May 1985  
/JH