

m. T. Hare

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FROM: P T DURBIN  
CPL DIVISION  
13 MARCH 1992

cc. PS/Mr Fell  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Ledlie  
Mr Alston  
Mr Steele  
Mr Lyon  
Mr Bell  
Mr Shannon  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Cooke  
Mr Leach  
Mr D A Hill  
Mr D J R Hill (o/r)

PS/PUS (L&B)

**ELECTION CONTINGENCY PLANNING: FIRST DAY BRIEFS**

1. In Mr Hill's absence on leave I am replying to your note of 12 March seeking a list of written briefs being prepared by the NIO for a new government.
2. I attach a copy of the list of First Day briefs which I have today commissioned from NIO divisions and NI Departments (through Central Secretariat). There may be some slight amendments in due course but not before your deadline and I think it should serve your purpose.
3. Also in preparation by Mr Bell is a note for PUS to put to an incoming Labour Secretary of State setting out an agenda for his first days in office. This will cover the First Day Briefs and a more considered analytical paper setting out how the new Government might be able to implement most effectively its strategic goals in respect of Northern Ireland and illustrating how these impact on Northern Ireland's problems. That paper might, I understand, be a candidate for circulation to Sir Robin Butler and others in Whitehall in due course.

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4. For completeness sake I should also refer to a series of analytical and policy papers which are being prepared at Mr Bell's request for possible submission to a new Secretary of State in the long term. These will be 'trailed' in the paper mentioned above.

SIGNED Peter Durbin

P T DURBIN

Constitutional and Political Division

OAB Ext 6575

A1 - The Constitutional Divide

Similar to existing brief, Unionists and Nationalists.

Historical summary. Divided Society. Central importance of improving community relations. Annex on the OCBU.

A2 - Government and Politics

The key political issues, recent political history and current political situation. The constitutional issue. Efforts to accommodate minority interests. Description of political parties and personalities.

A3 - Relations with the Republic of Ireland and the Anglo-Irish Agreement

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ANNEX A

"FIRST DAY" BRIEFING FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION

- Map of Northern Ireland
- Key Facts and Figures

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MAIN BRIEFS (maximum, 8 pages long)

- A1 - The Communal Divide

CPL/CCRU

Similar to existing brief. Unionists and Nationalists.

Historical summary. Divided Society. Central importance of

improving community relations. Annex on the CCRU.

- A2 - Government and Politics

CPL/PAB

The key political issues, recent political history and current political situation. The constitutional issue. Efforts to accommodate minority interests. Description of political parties and personalities.

- A3 - Relations with the Republic of Ireland and the Anglo-Irish Agreement

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Significance. Description of the Agreement. Lines of responsibility. Range of attitudes to NI in the Republic of Ireland. Current Conference issues.

A4 - The Current Security Situation

SPOB

Introduction to the threat, the security forces, the emergency legislation and the current situation.

A5 - Economic and Social Matters - Overview

Cent Sec/ ESL

Include Targeting Social Need

A6 - Public Expenditure

Cent Sec to arrange

Introduction to the mechanisms. PES. The Block, Comparability. DRCs? Financing expenditure. Control. Relations with the Treasury.

A7 - US and Other International Issues

SIL

Level of interest. Direction. Range of groups. Current issues. Organisational arrangements - NIOIC, NI Bureau etc. Other countries. International organisations.

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A8 - Major Current Issues in NI Departments (summary) Cent Sec

A9 - Personal Security Cent Sec to Estabs

A10- Expressions to be avoided (and other notes on terminology) CPL

SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEFS (maximum, 2 pages long)

General

B1 Structure of NIO and NI Departments Estabs  
B2 The Media Info Services  
B3 Current Legislative Procedures CPL/Cent Sec

SECURITY AND OTHER NIO RESPONSIBILITIES

B4 Prisons Cent Prison Regimes  
B5 The RUC POB  
B6 Extradition SIL  
B7 Criminal Justice C J Division  
B8 NIO Public Expenditure and Manpower RCB

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ECONOMIC

B9 Economic Development Cent Sec to arrange  
Size and nature of NI economy. Strengths and weaknesses.  
Current measures to encourage inward investment

B10 Fair Employment Issues Cent Sec to arrange  
Cent Sec/ESL

B11 EC Matters

B12 Energy

Cent Sec to arrange

Background. Electricity/Gas role in economy.

Interconnections. Current state of play on electricity  
privatisation.

AGRICULTURAL

B13 Agriculture and Rural Development

Cent Sec to arrange

Importance of Agriculture. Effect of CAP on NI rural  
development.

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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- B14 Environment Issues (including Housing) Cent Sec  
B15 Transport to arrange  
[or could be part of B14]  
B16 Making Belfast Work (and other urban/rural initiatives) Cent Sec to arrange

SOCIAL

- B17 Health and Social Services Cent Sec to arrange  
Organisation of health service in NI.  
Particular problems. Social Security system.  
B18 Education Cent Sec to arrange

Organisation of education service; and sectarian split;  
present policy on integrated education.

- B24 Cross-border co-operation  
Present arrangements. Current extent.  
Scope for development.

- B25 International Fund for Ireland

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POLITICAL

B19 Sinn Fein

CPL/PAB

Relationship with PIRA. Electoral support. Attitudes of other parties, Current government policies, including broadcasting ban, declaration against violence, access to Government.

B20 Local Government

CPL

Organisation and role. Current Issues

B21 Irish Language

Cent Sec

B22 Public Appointments

Cent Sec

B23 Human Rights

ESL

Legislation. Institutions. Current Issues.

MISCELLANEOUS

B24 Cross-border co-operation

Cent Sec

Present arrangements. Current extent.

Scope for development.

B25 International Fund for Ireland

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HISTORICAL

B26 Political and Constitutional  
Developments in Northern Ireland  
(since 1968)

B27 Main Historical Events in Ireland  
(up to 1968)

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