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Mr Boyd

Re arrange for an update report from NIHE tomorrow (Wed).

Cherry  
25/5

- 1. Miss Doake
- 2. PS/Minister

**UPDATE ON FOUR RECENT BOMB EXPLOSIONS**

Further to our telephone update, please find attached a report from the Housing Executive which outlines the up-to-date position.

I advised the Duty Officer of the situation regarding the Drumkeen explosion on the afternoon of 23 May 1993.

T BOYD  
Housing Management Branch

24 May 1993

Miss Doake

Mammy Hunter

Perhaps we might

ask NIHE

tomorrow for

an up-date.

They will also be

looking for  
extra finance!

MA

25/2

- cc. Mr N Hamilton
- Mr. D. Watkins Cont. Sec.
- Mr. S. Rogers. S.P.O.B.

24 MAY 1993



BOMB DAMAGE REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the past four days, the Belfast Region Headquarters, the Belfast District 3 Office and a large number of residential properties have been damaged by explosions in Glengall Street; Portadown: The Drumkeen Hotel and Magherafelt.

2.0 GLENGALL STREET EXPLOSION - Thursday 20th May

The explosion in Glengall Street has caused extensive damage to the new Belfast Region Headquarters, at 32-36 Great Victoria Street. The front of the building suffered considerable blast damage, with windows broken on every floor. Internally, up to 75% of the ceilings have been damaged, with limited damage to internal walls and partitions. Initial estimates put the cost of the repair work at approximately £250,000.

2.1 An emergency Homeless Advice and Grants service has been operating in the old Housing Advice Centre since last Thursday and Section Heads have been helping with the clearing up.

2.2 All the boarding up is now complete and the staff should be able to return to work by Thursday, when the emergency systems in the building will again be operational. In the meantime, staff are working out of the old Regional Office and a number of District Offices.

2.3 The explosion also damaged the Belfast 3 District Office in Murray Street. Damage was confined to broken windows, lights and collapsed ceilings. Staff provided an emergency service on Thursday and the office was again fully operational by Friday.

3.0 BOMB DAMAGE AT PORTADOWN - Saturday 22nd May

On Saturday, 22nd May 1993 at approximately 11.15 a.m., a massive van bomb caused extensive damage to Portadown town centre. The seat of the explosion was at the junction of Woodhouse Street and Market Street. Damage was largely confined to commercial premises although 31 dwellings suffered superficial damage, mainly confined to broken glass; 25 dwellings are in Executive ownership and 6 are privately owned.

3.1 Within two hours of the explosion, the Executive's contractor was on site effecting first-aid repairs to dwellings on the periphery of the town. Early on Saturday evening, access was permitted by the security forces to the Executive's Magowan Buildings flats which are located at the top of the town's commercial area. First-aid repairs were completed to 12 flats and permanent reglazing is scheduled for completion by the evening of the 25th.

3.2 The Executive's District Office was initially opened on Saturday but, on the advice of the Clerk & Chief Executive of the Council, the Executive set up an advice service at the incident centre at Armagh Road Presbyterian Church Hall. Executive staff also attended a meeting called by the Council's Chief Executive on Sunday 23rd May 1993 although no issues relating to housing were raised.



4.0 EXPLOSION AT DRUMKEEN HOTEL - Sunday 23rd May

Two hundred private dwellings were damaged by the explosion at the Drumkeen Hotel. The damage was largely confined to broken windows and roofs. The D.L.O. and 4 private contractors carried out first-aid repairs to 150 properties and all the work is now complete. Fifty of the owners have agreed to carry out their own repairs.

5.0 MAGHERAFELT EXPLOSION - Sunday 23rd May

Initial estimates are that 70 houses were damaged by the explosion in Magherafelt. The majority of the dwellings damaged are in private ownership, although approximately 9 Executive properties at Queen's Avenue were damaged. Although the damage was mainly superficial, a block of three private flats suffered more extensive damage and the 3 families may require rehousing. This morning 2 further families from the private sector have presented as homeless.

5.1 The repairs and first-aid work was undertaken by a private contractor and continued through the night. Although the damage looked superficial during the night, a more extensive survey will be undertaken today and the 3 families will be interviewed to determine whether they require rehousing.

Existing Management Search

BRIAN HENDERSON  
HEAD OF INFORMATION & SECRETARIAT  
N.I.H.E.

cc: Mr N Hamilton  
Mr J. ...  
Mrs ...

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