

E E N T P R O G R A M M E

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

# TRANSITION

PROGRAMME

{ THE NORTHERN  
IRELAND ASSEMBLY-  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
OTHER UK ASSEMBLIES

24 September 1998  
Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

# The Northern Ireland Assembly - Relationships with Other UK Assemblies

Thursday 24 September 1998  
Wellington Park Hotel

	Chairman: <i>Professor Brigid Hadfield</i> , Queen's University Belfast	
8.45 am	Registration and Coffee	
9.20 am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	McWilliam Suite A
	<i>John Semple</i> , Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service	
9.30 am	<b>Devolution in the United Kingdom</b>	McWilliam Suite A
	<i>Professor Brigid Hadfield</i> , Professor Queen's University Belfast <i>Simon James</i> , Cabinet Office Constitution Secretariat	
11.00 am	Tea/Coffee	Foyer
11.30 am	<b>Checks and Balances</b>	McWilliam Suite A
	<i>Richard Cornes</i> , Constitution Unit, University College, London	
	<b>Inter-Governmental Bodies: Lessons from Overseas</b>	
	<i>Professor Robert Hazell</i> , Director Constitution Unit, University College, London	
12.45 pm	Lunch	McWilliam Suite B
1.45 pm	<b>Designing the Procedures for the Welsh National Assembly</b>	McWilliam Suite A
	<i>Martin Evans</i> , Welsh Office	
	<b>Preparing the Agenda in Wales</b>	
	<i>John Osmond</i> , Institute of Welsh Affairs	
2.45 pm	Tea/Coffee	McWilliam Suite B

3.15 pm **Planning for the Scottish Parliament**

McWilliam Suite A

*Ian Walford*, Scottish Office

**The Civic Forum in Scotland**

*Martin Sime*, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

4.30 pm Questions and Panel Discussions

5.30 pm Close

*For filing*

cc. Mr Hunter

**FROM: GERRY COSGRAVE**

**DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 1998**

**TO: PS/MR SEMPLE**

**TRANSITION PROGRAMME - RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER UK ASSEMBLIES  
24 SEPTEMBER 1998**

1. I am grateful to Mr Semple for agreeing to deliver the opening remarks at tomorrow's seminar on Relationships with other UK Assemblies. The event is being held in the McWilliam Suite in the Wellington Park Hotel, beginning at 9.20am. If Mr Semple could arrive shortly after 9.00am I will arrange for him to meet with the Chair for the day, Professor Brigid Hadfield and the other speakers.
2. This seminar was originally due to run on 20 August but was postponed until tomorrow because of the Omagh tragedy. The aim of the seminar is to provide members of the Assembly with an understanding of:
  - how Northern Ireland fits into the wider devolution programme;
  - how other devolved assemblies are likely to evolve (especially in Wales, which hopes for the transfer of further powers);
  - the checks and balances needed in a single chamber Parliament.

It will also enable links to be developed between the NI Assembly and other devolved Assemblies.
3. This seminar is the last in the Core Series. It will be followed by a further set of seminars dealing with specific functions of Government. The functional seminars opened on Monday of this week with Health and Social Services and will continue through until mid-November. Details of future Transition Programme events will be distributed to Assembly members on the day and they should be encouraged to enrol for as many as possible.
4. Given that we are at least a third of the way into the programme Mr Semple's opening remarks should be informal. I would suggest that he:
  - introduces himself again for the benefit of those who have not heard him at earlier seminars;
  - explains his role in relation to commissioning the Transition Programme;

- explains the involvement of relevant Civil Servants and the benefits of learning together;
  - reminds members that it is their programme and that we need comment and feedback if the Programme is to remain responsive.
  - thanks the speakers for their practical help in this very important enterprise;
  - introduces Professor Brigid Hadfield as the Chair for the day.
5. I attach for Mr Semple's information a copy of the seminar programme, short pen portraits on each of the speakers, a list of attendees and a schedule of past and future Transition Programme events (a line has been drawn through events that have taken place). Please contact me if you require further information otherwise I will meet with Mr Semple tomorrow morning at the Wellington Park Hotel.

*Gerry Cosgrave*  
GERRY COSGRAVE

GMC/376/Sept98