

0171 270 5456

N10 - Bloody Sunday Jy 50 1857/98

JCS / 1239 / 98 / 5

H. Clarke  
Mr Campbell  
Miss Bennett



**RESTRICTED - POLICY**

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

326 | 39 | 98

*Mr P. Allen  
not unexpected*

*J 26/5 copied 22/5 cc*

- PS | SSS | L+B)
- PS | Mr Ingram (L+B)
- PS | Mr Murphy (L+B) \*
- PS | PWS (L+B)
- PS | Mr Semple
- Mr Jeffrey
- 21 May 1998
- Mr Blackwell
- ~~Mr Quinn JCP~~

The Rt Hon Dr Marjorie Mowlam MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Office  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2AZ

*What - consider  
help  
5/22*

*Dear No,*

**SAVILLE INQUIRY**

*\* for further advice / reply as appropriate*

*J 21/5*

Thank you for your letter of 18 May in which you sought access to the Reserve to meet the costs of the Saville Inquiry.

2. While I fully understand the political sensitivities surrounding the events of Bloody Sunday, I would have thought that, regardless of the source of funding, the Inquiry headed by Lord Justice Saville will be rightly seen as fully autonomous and independent of the Northern Ireland Office and therefore not compromised by any funding considerations. The public will have no idea nor any interest in the source of funding. And, of course, at the end of the day, a successful reserve claim is in fact funding from your budget.

**RESTRICTED - POLICY**

3. I am, in any case, not persuaded that the costs of the Saville Inquiry should be met from the Reserve, rather, as in the case of other recent important inquiries funded from the relevant departments' existing provision, they should be met from within the Northern Ireland Block. You may be aware that the costs of the Dunblane Inquiry, the North Wales Child Abuse Inquiry and the BSE Inquiry were and are being met from the relevant departments' voted provision without a call on the Reserve.

4. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and to Sir Richard Wilson.

*Yours  
Alistair Darling*

**ALISTAIR DARLING**