

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

Reference Code: 2002/19/459

Title: Press release issued by the Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast, regarding the first meeting of the new Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Creation Date(s): 13 May, 1971

Level of description: Item

Extent and medium: 3 pages

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

Access Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

30 5/18/71 2✓
11/203/71

~~30 5/18/71~~

13 MAY 1971

Department of Foreign Affairs



Issued by the NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE
Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST. Telephone BELFAST 63011

PRESS RELEASE

HOUSING EXECUTIVE FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the new Northern Ireland Housing Executive was held to-day.

The Executive decided to seek meetings at early dates with a number of bodies for an exchange of views on the housing problems to be faced and the steps to be taken to tackle them. These bodies are:-

The Northern Ireland Housing Council
The Central Tenants' Association
The Irish Congress of Trades Unions
The Local Authority Associations
The Northern Ireland Housing Trust
The Belfast Corporation
The Staff Associations
The Interim Staff Commissions

30S/4/8/5 ✓
11/11

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CENTRAL HOUSING EXECUTIVE
LUNCHEON - 12 45 PM, THURSDAY, 13 MAY 1971 - STORMONT
THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT - THE RT HON ROY H BRADFORD MP

There can be few bodies in Ulster on which so many eyes will focus so critically and so attentively in the next few years as the Northern Ireland Central Housing Executive. Let's be quite candid about this. There are a lot of people waiting to cry "foul" at the first possible opportunity - or rather, what might appear to be the first opportunity.

But there are a lot more people eager to wish you well in the formidable task that is now yours. The agreed housing programme both public and private for the five years to 1974/75 is 73,500 houses. This involves a substantial increase in slum clearance and re-development. It involves the building of over 19,000 more houses than were built in the previous 5 years and that was in itself a high base to start from.

The first year of the Development Programme which ended last March saw over 13,000 houses completed - nearly 1,000 more than in any previous year. The Programme is buoyant but the task is immense.

We, in the Government, have asked you to serve on the Executive not just because we believe you will build up and administer a highly efficient machine capable of meeting our needs. It requires more than a machine to give people a service. It requires understanding. It requires a sympathy with the honest endeavours of hard-working people. And it requires a willingness to communicate with the man on the street.

I could not overstate the part you can play in the future of this community in which we live. A complex community; at times a cruel community; but a community in which all of us have our roots.

/First we

First we have to build houses. Then these have to be turned into homes. You will need to concentrate on the provision of houses to rent. But we must never overlook the important contribution of owner occupation. There is provision in the Housing Executive Act for you to help if there is a need to supplement the efforts of Private Enterprise. For it is when more people have a personal stake in Ulster - when they own the bricks and mortar that surround them - that they will begin to realise the folly in allowing them to be pulled down round them.

I want you to know that you will receive all the help and encouragement that we in the Government can give. Both I and my officials are looking forward to working with you closely and harmoniously. Our aims are the same. Our paths are parallel. I believe that our objectives can best be realised by full and easy co-operation.

The same co-operation that will, I know, be one of Mr Lorimer's first aims as you get down this afternoon to your new tasks. Whatever human activity you care to look at, one thing is undeniable. The group that achieves the greatest team spirit fulfils its objectives better than any other.

I know that I speak for every responsible person in Ulster and for every responsible organisation - political, social or what have you - when I wish you every possible success in your work.

Two Belfast newspapers of opposing views have had this to say: "The Housing Executive sounds full of promise and magnificently democratic." "The public will look to it for an imaginative approach and a united endeavour." Together we must ensure that these are lived up to.