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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (N.I.)
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Most Rev Cahal B Daly
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3 June 1985

Mr Bishop Daly.

Thank you for your further letter of 13 May 1985 about Divis Flats.

While I note the points you make and appreciate the spirit in which they are offered, I cannot really do other than reiterate my earlier views that I do not believe demolition to be the appropriate solution taking all things into consideration.

As I said in my previous letter, I am always prepared to assist when I can. In this instance, however, I think we should get to the point as quickly as possible where improvement works can be carried out. The situation will be closely monitored and I have asked the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to keep me informed of progress.

May I thank you for your concern and for your kind words and good wishes.

I entirely accept the experience of high rise elsewhere. I doubt whether any other part of the U.K. is conducting as much as we are - some of these Margate, Rossville etc - or that any other region will have a little high rise as us in a couple of years' time. Would that we had more evidence that brutalist architectural plans which so many "experts" and others supported at the time. Needless to say, I shall always be prepared to talk to you and you always about this issue - or any other. I am keen to be as helpful as I can reasonably be. Do please say if you would find another talk useful.

*Yours,
Chris (Patten)*