

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2022/45/599
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
CASTLE BUILDINGS
STORMONT
BELFAST BT4 3SG

Tel: 01232 528121
Fax: 01232 528471

Permanent Under-Secretary of State
Joe Pilling CB

Senator George Mitchell
Block B
Castle Buildings

6 September 1999

Dear Senator,

You have very kindly agreed to act as facilitator for the Review of the implementation of the Belfast Agreement. I thought it might be helpful to confirm the practical arrangements. These have been agreed with the Irish Government, who will share the expenses associated with your appointment.

The arrangements are broadly similar to those agreed for your service as the Chairman of the multi-party negotiations which concluded in April 1998. In particular, we have agreed that you will not be receiving formal compensation for your services, but will accept £100 each working day for living expenses. We will meet all travel and accommodation costs. For ease of reference I have attached a short guidance note covering the main points.

The review commenced with your meeting the two Prime Ministers in London on 20 July and resumes on your arrival in Belfast yesterday. It is not possible to establish any formal length of appointment. Both we and the Irish Government are fully aware of your availability during this month and your desire to ensure that your input to the Review is not open ended. It seems sensible, therefore, to propose that if some additional time beyond 24

©DFA/2022/45/599

September would be helpful towards securing a positive outcome, a further assessment of your availability might be undertaken a few days before that point.

We understand that Kelly Currie will accompany you during September. I am pleased to confirm that Mr Currie's loss of salary will be reimbursed while he assists with the Review. A short guidance note for his information is enclosed.

Both Governments remain extremely grateful to you for agreeing to act as facilitator. If you are content with these terms, I should be grateful if you would sign one copy of this letter and return it to me as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Joe

JOE PILLING

©DFA/2022/45/599

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

GUIDANCE FOR REVIEW FACILITATOR

1. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair and the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, acting jointly on behalf of both Governments, invited Senator George Mitchell to act as a facilitator for the Implementation Review which they announced would begin on 20 July 1999.

Remuneration

2. Living expenses at the rate of £100 per day will be paid for each day spent on Review related business. No other remuneration will be paid.

3. This will be paid in arrears on a weekly basis into an account designated by you. Claims should be sent to Paul Lennox in Constitutional and Political Division.

Accommodation

4. A suite will be retained at either the Europa or Stormont Hotels in Belfast. Suitable accommodation will also be provided elsewhere in the United Kingdom or Ireland if required for the purposes of the Review. Accommodation should be arranged through Paul Lennox in Constitutional and Political Division.

5. The Governments will meet the cost of all meals taken while you are engaged on Review related business, whether in Northern Ireland or elsewhere.

Travel

6. You are entitled to travel Business Class within Europe, and first class (excluding Concorde) for transatlantic flights. The Governments will pay for flights home and all travel within Great Britain or both parts of the island of Ireland.

7. You will have access to a car and a driver. The vehicle may be used by your support staff when not required by you. Any other car bookings should be made through Paul Lennox.

©DFA/2022/45/599

Hospitality Allowance

8. You may, from time to time, wish to meet those with whom you consult over lunch or dinner to carry forward work. The two governments will cover the cost of such hospitality where it is considered to be of assistance in achieving a positive outcome to the Review. There must, as a minimum, be one person present other than yourself or a member of your staff.

Authority to Incur Expenditure

9. Authority for authorising hospitality will lie with you. You may, at your discretion, authorise staff to incur expenditure on hospitality on your behalf.

Credit Cards

10. You have been issued with a credit card which should, wherever possible, be used when incurring hospitality outside the Review venue. In all cases, receipted bills and credit card receipts should be retained and forwarded to Paul Lennox in Constitutional and Political Division, who should also be advised of the nature of the function and, where confidentiality permits, the names of the person or persons entertained.

11. The card may also be used in emergencies to obtain cash. In order to meet public accounting requirements you will be asked to show clearly what the cash was used for and provide supporting documentation.

©DFA/2022/45/599

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF OF REVIEW FACILITATOR

1. The Independent Review Facilitator will have the support of one aide. He will continue to support the facilitator as long as his services are required.

Remuneration

2. Reimbursement for loss of salary will be arranged while remaining on Review related business. Remuneration will be paid in arrears to a specified account. Payments will be handled by Paul Lennox in Constitutional and Political Division.

Accommodation

3. A single room will be provided at either the Europa or Stormont Hotels in Belfast. Suitable accommodation will be provided for talks-related business elsewhere in the United Kingdom or Ireland, if required. Accommodation should be arranged through Paul Lennox in Constitutional and Political Division.

Meals

4. The two Governments will reimburse the full cost of breakfast in your hotel. The Governments will also reimburse the full cost of any meal taken with the facilitator on Review related business and when hosting official hospitality.

Daily allowance

5. The two governments will pay you a daily allowance of £25 for each day spent on work relating to the Review. This is intended to cover the cost of meals not already paid for as above, and any other incidental expenses.

Credit Card

6. You have been provided with a credit card. This card has been issued to cover 2 types of expenditure:-

©DFA/2022/45/599

i) when authorised by the facilitator for hospitality

ii) in emergencies, cash.

In order to meet public accounting requirements you will be asked to show clearly what the cash was used for in all cases, receipted bills must be produced together with any credit card/ATM receipts.]

Travel

7. You will be entitled to travel business class (where available).

8. The two governments will provide transport for Review related business or cover the cost of this. The facilitator will have access to a car and a driver. You may use his car if it is not required by the facilitator. Travel costs not directly related to the Review must be met by you.

©DFA/2022/45/599