

McLaren

Dr Quigley
Thank you
for note
copy to B. P. ...
JL to 1/41

cc PS/Lord Elton (L & B)
PS/PUS (L & B)
PS/Mr Bell
Mr Bloomfield
Mr Parke
Dr Quigley
Mr Finney

Miss Wilton
as at (1) to (4)
please but
note *RW

Mr Anderson
Pl action x
Minister sends letter
JL 10/4
Please
*after
Mr Wilton

Mr Rossi

ARDOYNE

(2) Would you also please send
a copy to the ladder + ask for Y.
(3) Keep in B/F to ensure that Mr Rossi
gets the up-to-date report. Please open a
new file for the Ardoyne
before

1. Thank you for your note of 12 March 1980 containing some thoughts on Ardoyne.
2. To widen the perspective outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of your minute it is worth remembering that during the past decade there has been intensive Provisional IRA activity in Ardoyne. Attempts made by the Provisional IRA to build up an alternative system of civil administration included their own "policing" arrangements and "punishment" shootings. In the late 70s the security forces assessed that the Provisional IRA probably derived a total annual income of some £90,000 in protection payments and revenue from clubs, Black Taxis, businesses and the construction industry in the area. It is undoubtedly true that ordinary citizens in the Ardoyne have feared attack from outside but all this lawless activity within the area has created a fear of the area on the part of neighbouring communities and of those who have supplied services to the area. This has adversely affected efforts to ease the Ardoyne's problems.
3. Provisional IRA influence now seems to be waning and the civil authorities in recent years have been increasing their efforts, especially in relation to housing and environmental conditions and the problems of social deprivation, the worst manifestations of which are found in the 24 wards of the city (including Ardoyne) which comprise the Belfast Areas of Need.
4. I have attached at Annex 1 a statistical extract from the 1979 Belfast Household Survey on several of Belfast's deprived wards, including Ardoyne, which quantifies to some extent the scale of deprivation. Despite the difficulties, however, much work is being carried out by public agencies and last year's area officer report attached at Annex 2 gives a detailed account of housing action, youth and community facilities, and public amenities and employment. This year's report will be available shortly and I shall arrange for you to receive a copy.

W/4

5. On the specific issues you raise in connection with Enterprise Zones, a Development Officer for Brookfield Industrial Estate and the establishment of a GTC, I would make the following comments:-
 - 5.1. Brookfield Industrial Estate is included in the Enterprise Zone site for Belfast presently under consideration. It is envisaged that once the Enterprise Zone legislation gets through the House a Development Officer would be appointed in connection with the implementation arrangements.
 - 5.2. Whether or not there should be a GTC in Ardoyne is of course a matter for you to decide on the basis of advice from your Department of Manpower Services.
6. On the general approach of how we are to tackle Belfast's social deprivation problems, on both sides of the sectarian divide, I would suggest that the most appropriate machinery for considering these is the Belfast Areas of Need Working Group (see Annex 3) which I have set up as part of the Belfast Committees' Structure and which embodies an Inter-Departmental and inter-agency approach to social deprivation. You are very welcome to attend meetings of the Group and of the Co-ordinating Committee.
7. Ardoyne, as part of the Belfast's Areas of Need has already benefited from additional resources amounting to some £360,000 allocated by the previous administration for pre-school and youth facilities there. In addition, the Housing Executive, as the Area Officer Report shows, is heavily involved in improving housing and environmental conditions. The Belfast Areas of Need Working Group will try to determine, amongst its other tasks, the scope for additional measures in Ardoyne within the constraints imposed by the Cabinet's public expenditure policies and in line with our philosophy of less Government intervention and more self-help.
8. On balance, therefore, I feel that we should continue to try to make progress over a period of time by means of the steady, patient work already under way in Ardoyne and by taking appropriate opportunities through the Inter-Departmental Belfast Areas of Need machinery to give additional assistance where possible. Given the scale of Belfast's problems and the sectarian implications of selecting a single area for special treatment, especially when no additional

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public funds are available, it may not be advisable to raise this particular hare at present. I hope you would agree therefore that in the present public expenditure climate an overt special initiative on the Ardoyne, additional to Belfast Areas of Need, would be premature and that we should not involve the Secretary of State at this stage.

PHILIP GOODHART

April 1980

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