



Mr Chesterton
Mr Innes
Mr Miles
Miss Pease
Mr Radcliffe, PANI
Mr Steele
Mr McClelland
Mr Wood
Mr Maxwell
Mr J Wilks

cc ① Sir K Bloomfield ② JB
Mr A W Stephens (o/r)
Mr Burns
Mr Coulson
Mr Forsythe
PS/PUS (L)

I imagine you will all have read it already but in case you have not I attach a copy of the statement that Sir Kenneth Bloomfield put out yesterday. Sir Kenneth spoke, of course, as Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, but what he had to say he has said on behalf of us all.

2. The Provisional IRA has attacked other Crown Servants in the past and it could choose to do so again, as indeed they have threatened. You and your staff have all been aware of the threat in the past, and it would be silly to simply disregard this latest statement of it. The security forces are redirecting some of their activities. In addition a rapid reassessment of the risks to staff is being carried out now and you and your staff will be told if individually there is any special action you should take. In the meantime everybody should re-read "Personal Security Precautions - Notes of Guidance" and do their best to abide by them. If anybody wants additional copies of this would they please get in touch with Mr Ard in PAGAB who will supply them.

3. For the rest, it seems to me that the response that we should make to yesterday's outrage is quietly to carry on doing our business and, with our families, living our daily lives. That certainly is Sir Kenneth's message and I profoundly agree with it.

JOHN BLELLOCH

13 September 1988

I feel very thankful that my wife, my eighteen year old son Timothy and I have survived the callous attack on our home.

I have now worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service for almost 36 years, trying to be of service to all the people of Northern Ireland. This is the tradition and task of public service in this country, and neither they nor I will be deterred from the duty we owe to our fellow citizens and to democratic government.