



Northern Ireland Office  
Stormont Castle  
Belfast BT4 3ST

Secretary of State

Sir Robert Lowry  
Chairman of the Convention  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST

9 June 1975\*

*Dear Sir Robert*

As I promised in my letter of 4 June my officials have been in touch with yours, and I am writing now to let you know that, although there is no statutory authority for such payment, I agree that it would be right for funds to be made available to allow the parties in the Convention to engage the assistance of academic experts or other experts with suitable qualifications or experience on matters arising from the work of the Convention.

Each party or party group in the Convention will be entitled to the reimbursement of expenses incurred in obtaining this assistance during the life of the Convention, up to the following limits:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| United Ulster Unionist Coalition   | £8000 |
| Social Democratic and Labour Party | £4000 |
| Alliance Party                     | £2500 |
| Unionist Party of Northern Ireland | £2500 |
| Northern Ireland Labour Party      | £1000 |
| Mr Hugh Smyth                      | £1000 |

These allowances would cover the life of the Convention - that is six months from 1 May, or until the report is submitted, whichever is the shorter period. I do not propose that there should be any limit on how much might be reimbursed to a party in any one period.

Payments will be made to the parties through their accredited representatives, by Mr Blackburn, or his staff, acting on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office. Payments will, as I am sure the parties will understand, be made only on the basis of the reasonable expenses actually incurred, and vouched for with the appropriate supporting document.

I would be grateful if you will inform the parties of the existence of this scheme which is being put into operation immediately:

*Yours sincerely  
M. G. Peck*