

FROM: PETER MAY
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
9 JULY 1993

14 JUL 1993
392

Mr McCusker - B

cc Mr Watkins - B
Mr Maccabe
Mr Robinson, CA
Ms Doak, DOE
Mr McCormick, DOE

Doak
14/7

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL: COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

Representatives of the NIHE and the Compensation Agency met representatives of the Council on Thursday 8 July to discuss concerns over the handling of repairs and compensation following the bomb outside the Mourne Country Hotel. I was also present.

2. A range of councillors were present, ostensibly those representing the Newry Town DEA but in fact including a number of others. One of the Newry Town Sinn Fein Councillors was present throughout the meeting but made no contribution.

3. The Vice-Chairman of the Council, Danny Kennedy (UUP), did most of the talking on the Council's side although it was clear there was cross-party agreement on the points of concern. Most of the discussion centred on the discretion of the Secretary of State to allow the NIHE to carry out repairs (rather than weather proofing) on private properties, as seen at Belvoir and Glengormley. Some councillors felt Newry had not been included because the bomb had affected fewer people and argued that this was inequitable as those affected were equally devastated no matter how large the bomb.

4. As well as explaining the legal limits of what could be done, we also explained to for the Councillors why the scheme introduced by the Secretary of State had not been taken up in any cases. Many of the Councillor's objections ceased when they realised there was no gain in financial or speed terms in using the NIHE and indeed that their local builder may be able to replace unusual features in houses more swiftly than the NIHE. Residual complaints remained although even these became muted once it was pointed out the scheme had not been used in recent bombs at Magherafelt, Portadown etc, and that Newry was therefore not being discriminated against.

Both the Compensation Agency and NIHE offered to visit again any of those affected by the bomb who remained unsure of how to effect repairs. The meeting served the purpose of clearing the air and nailing some myths. Councillors were pleased it had been set up swiftly and accepted all the agencies had done a good job. There is unlikely to be any further calls for the Belvoir scheme to be extended to Newry. The £200 excess for compensation was, unsurprisingly the target of much criticism however.

[Signed]

PETER MAY
SH EXT 27088

REPLY AND RETURN BY POSSIBLE RETURN INVOLVING LONG TRIP TO THE...
...on 6 July...
...arrangements...
...following the...

The Council's concern centres on the liability of the...
...non-NIHE properties after the...
...role of the NIHE...
...Mr Nares...
...the NIHE could carry out...
...A special dispensation was in fact only...
...Mr Nares made...
...the NIHE could not undertake the repairs...

The Council phoned yesterday to seek a meeting between the...
...Councillors (of whom 2 are Sinn Féin) and the...
...The Compensation Agency and NIHE will both be fielding...
...we agreed that I should also attend, and that if...
...the matter is clearly a constituency one. We have...
...officials (and Ministers) will...
...with SP on such matters. CPL agrees...
11074/LO

FROM: PETER MAY
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
7 JULY 1993

- 8 JUL 1993
371

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)	- B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)	- B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)	- B
PS/PUS (B&L)	- B
PS/Mr Fell	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Williams	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr McCusker	- B
Miss Doak, DOE	- B
Mr Brooker	- B
Mr McCormick, DOE	- B
Mr Durbin	- B

Doak #19.

Mr Maccabe

NEWRY AND MOURNE DC: POSSIBLE MEETING INVOLVING SINN FEIN COUNCILLORS

We spoke earlier about a meeting fixed for 1600 on 8 July organised by Newry and Mourne DC to discuss compensation arrangements following the recent bomb in Newry.

2. The Council's concern centres on the inability of the NIHE to repair (as opposed to weather proof) non-NIHE properties after the bomb. Some of the confusion over the role of the NIHE may have been inadvertently caused by Mr Mates comments to local councillors when he visited the scene, as he suggested the NIHE could carry out repairs to all houses. A special dispensation was in fact only granted after the Belvoir and Glengormley bombings. Mr Mates made no commitment and asked me to pursue the point. I told the Chief Executive the next day that the NIHE could not undertake the repairs.

3. The Council phoned yesterday to seek a meeting between the Newry Town Councillors (of whom 2 are Sinn Fein) and the NIO and NIHE. The Compensation Agency and NIHE will both be fielding representatives. We agreed that I should also attend, and that if SF councillors are present it would not breach the guidelines on contact as the matter is clearly a constituency one. We have publicly acknowledged that officials (and Ministers) will occasionally have dealings with SF on such matters. CPL agree with this interpretation.

Given the subject matter of the meeting it may, of course, be that SF will not turn up, but this minute alerts copy recipients to the possibility in case of any political fallout.

Peter May

PETER MAY

SH EXT 27088

TO: SAC, NEW YORK
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: [illegible]

DRAFT 1 - REPORT ON THE [illegible] OF [illegible] TO LEARN [illegible]

I attach a report on the [illegible] draft of the report of the working group [illegible] to review the Government's response to the civil liberties of security incidents, particularly those involving government and social hardship, following hearings on [illegible] and [illegible]. The draft incorporates most, if not all, of the written contributions made by members of the group. I hope that it also reflects the main conclusions which we reached at our meeting on 21 June.

I would welcome comments and any final drafting changes by 14 July. This would allow us to forward an agreed version to [illegible] by 17 July.

[Signature]

TOM HENNING

RESTRICTED

11068/LO