



Northern Ireland Office  
Parliament Buildings  
Belfast BT4 3SS

John Reid Esq  
Chairman  
John Reid Enterprises  
32 Galena Road  
Hammersmith  
LONDON W6 0LT

10 DEC 1997  
12/778

8 December 1997

Dear John,

I am writing to follow up on your conversation with the Prime Minister about organising an Elton John concert in the Stormont Parklands in Belfast. I was delighted to learn that you are keen to pursue the idea because, as Tony explained, such an event would be an enormous boost to confidence at a critical time for us in Northern Ireland.

I have now spoken to Jim Aiken with whom you have also been in touch and talked through some of the practical issues which need to be addressed to make this exciting and important event happen.

We think that an Elton John Concert during the first week of July held in the Stormont Parklands would be a winning combination for all of us in Northern Ireland. Jim thinks we should aim for a crowd of about 10,000 to 12,000 on a site just in front of Parliament Buildings and I attach some photographs to give you an idea of the location.

In order, however, to take the project forward you need to let me know the financial arrangements for securing Elton. Elton's fee is a key consideration, and whether, for example, the amount of the fee, or whether it might be waived, donated to charity or used in part to support a children's playground in the Stormont Parklands. The Playground could then be dedicated to Elton.



If we are to make this happen then Elton John will be the first popular music artist to play in the Stormont Parklands. The publicity (local and international) will be very significant, not to mention the goodwill generated amongst all of us who wish to progress the cause of peace.

I should be happy to discuss further with you if that will help or you can contact Linda Brown (01232 541180). I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Mowlam".

MARJORIE MOWLAM