



Emergency Planning Unit  
Massey House  
Stoney Road  
Belfast BT4 3SX  
Tel: (01232) 527372-8  
Fax: (01232) 527380  
e-mail epb@nics.gov.uk

Mr J Gallagher  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

12 October 1999

**Military Aid over the Millennium**

We spoke this morning about the request in your letter of 8 October 1999 that a further review of our needs for military aid over the millennium be carried out and inviting Departmental representatives to a meeting on 14 October.

2. As I explained I did not think it would be possible to field a representative from Northern Ireland at the meeting. However, I did say that we had already commenced a review of the position of NI Departments and the NI Emergency Services as a result of the recent report on Exercise Hydra. This has confirmed, with the exception of the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade (NIFB), the results of the original April survey. As promised, I enclose for your attention a copy of the annex to our original reply, together with details of the revised NIFB requirement.

3. I hope that this information meets your needs but I would be happy to clarify any point if required.

4. Copies of this letter go to Joe Pilling's office and Stephen Webb in the NIO for information, and to Rupert Jones in MoD.

*Yours sincerely*

W H M Clements

1. **Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC)**

The RUC will have some requirements but will use their normal liaison channels to arrange this assistance.

2. **Northern Ireland Fire Brigade (NIFB)**

The NIFB report that provided there are no serious failures of Tranche 1 services (electricity, communications etc.) they should have no requirements for military assistance.

3. **Northern Ireland Ambulance (NIAS)**

The NIAS has met with RAMC personnel to exchange information particularly in regard to helicopter services. NIAS has not built participation into its plans but would like to be kept informed as to their availability.

4. **Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (DOE(NI))**

The Department has no requirements for military assistance over this period.

5. **Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)**

The Department has been considering the potential impact of civic and other crowd related celebrations and propose off-site medical facilities supported by First aid posts. Clearly staffing is likely to be the most difficult area and this is where the military might be able to assist.

6. **Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland (DANI)**

The Department has nothing in its planning which would indicate a requirement for military assistance over this period except in extremis.

7. **Department of Economic Development (DED)**

The Department has no requirements for military assistance over this period.

8. **Department of Finance and Personnel**

The Department has no requirements for military assistance over this period.

1. Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI)

The Department does not envisage any military assistance being enquired by the education sector.

10. Northern Ireland Office/Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not anticipate any need for military assistance beyond that already provided for in contingency plans for dealing with breakdowns in control and order.

11. Water Service

The Water Service is planning in accordance with government expectations and its preparations include contingency planning for four scenarios the most extreme of which is the blackout or doomsday scenario. Sufficient manpower is not likely to exist within the Water Service in this scenario and additional military assistance may be necessary. Such manpower might be used to set up emergency plant or deliver alternative water supplies. In very extreme circumstances military transport and technical assistance might be necessary.

12. Northern Ireland Court Service

The Court Service does not anticipate requiring military assistance over this period.