

From: Aideen McGinley

Date: 27 September 2001

To: Gerry Loughran

cc: Perm Secs
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11 SEPTEMBER 2001

Firstly I apologise for not being present in person as I am speaking at your PSIU Balanced Scorecard Forum.

1. You asked Departments to consider and assess the potential impact and consequences of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and to let you have departmental perspectives by 27 September 2001.
2. The most obvious consequence for the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure is almost certain to be a substantial reduction in the number of tourists who visit Northern Ireland and who would be expected to avail of the cultural and sporting opportunities here. The Public Record Office expects a significant drop in the numbers of visitors, particularly Americans, visiting the Office. This was the case during the Gulf War and we would expect that the attacks in Washington and New York will have an even greater impact on the willingness of US and other tourists to travel by air.

Similarly, although we are not yet in a position to quantify it, we would expect that the numbers of visitors coming to Northern Ireland to participate in angling or cruising is almost certain to drop. Furthermore, large events such as the Belfast Festival at Queen's are also almost certain to be affected with visitors less willing to travel by air but at this stage it is not possible to be precise about numbers.

3. The UK in NY event has now been changed to UK with NY and the opening event will showcase the Ulster Orchestra whose programme now has a strong peace theme. The Capital of Culture Board are considering how Belfast can be supportive of the city of UK and the theme is to be developed during meetings in the city as part of the UK with NY theme.

4. Finally, the events in New York and Washington highlighted the vulnerability of organisations to attacks of this kind, not just in terms of physical safety, but also in terms of the need to safeguard electronic and paper records. I would suggest that it might be timely to review the Northern Ireland Civil Service's contingency plans in this regard and I would be happy to arrange for the Public Record Office to advise Departments on the identification and backup of vital records.

I hope these preliminary thoughts are helpful.

AIDEEN McGINLEY