

**RESTRICTED - POLICY***Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister***HONOURS SECRETARIAT****Room A4.5, CASTLE BUILDINGS**

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**TO: DOROTHY ANGUS**  
**FINANCE**

**FROM: GARY SMYTH**

**DATE: 15 May 2001**

**HMQ JUBILEE 2001 - PROGRESS REPORT**

1. You might wish to have a brief update apropos our meeting yesterday:

- ★ Christine Jendoubi, DE is to return my call about her department's involvement as is Jeremy Harris, Lambeth Palace about church events (eg campanology!);
- ★ I spoke to Gordon Gibson, DSD about Terry Smyth's letter of 12 January 2001 about licensing laws: the matter was put to their Minister, Maurice Morrow (DUP) who indicated that he would not be asking the NIE to approve any change to current licensing laws in NI to allow for either 24 hour opening (as at the Millennium) nor a blanket approval for extended opening hours as is being considered in GB (in both cases, primary legislation would be required here and would necessitate consultation and the Minister has ruled out any consultation process). Individual licensees can (always) apply for an extension to normal opening on an ad hoc basis within the restrictions of current legislation. There the matter rests. DSD await further pronouncements from the Home Office and Gibson and I have agreed to notify each other of any developments we become aware of and he will copy to me any (existing) relevant papers. Ministers may well come under pressure in due course for a relaxation and/or parity with GB.
- ★ Bank Holiday announcements: John McKervill, EIS has suggested that this is a matter for the NIO's Information Service as responsibility for additional bank holidays is the SOS's. Denis Godfrey, NIO is not aware of any proposals for a formal announcement. I suggested that, such are or maybe the implications, he might wish to follow up on the matter - he will discuss with the relevant NIO division (Christine Collins's) and keep me informed.
- ★ Local councils: Sandra Robinson, Belfast City Council's Lord Mayor's office is on leave: her office tell me that she is a member of the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) which meets to discuss such matters [as the Jubilee]. I have the

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name and telephone number of NACO's Chairman (Nottingham Council) though I shall wait for Sandra to return my call on her return on Monday 21 May and we shall see what that produces.

2. That's it so far...making haste slowly?

*Gary Smyth*

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