

From: **Alan Maitland**
Regeneration and External Affairs Division

June 2005

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To: 1. **Jeff Rooker**
2. **Secretary of State**

**APPOINTMENTS TO MAZE/LONG KESH OVERSIGHT PANEL
(MLKOP)**

Issue:	Public commitment to appoint new political level body to oversee the regeneration of the site
Timescale:	Routine
Fol implications:	Fully disclosable
Presentation issues:	Considerable. The media and the public follow closely the development of the site; some controversy over the listing of buildings and the related International Centre for Conflict Transformation (ICCT) remains.
Recommendation:	That you agree to the process for the appointment of the MLKOP, to its proposed constitution and remit, to the draft press release, and to the draft letter to the political parties.

Background

1. Ian Pearson announced on 30 March that the political parties should have a continuing involvement in the development of the site. The Maze Consultation Panel which reported in February was lead by the UUP and the SDLP, having been formed before the last Assembly

and Westminster elections. The DUP and Sinn Féin expect that any freshly constituted body should reflect the current electoral realities. The DUP have been pressing for the new body to be set up. It would be most useful for such a body to liaise with the masterplanners and the SIB. It is also essential for officials to be able to work with political appointees on the remit and function of the ICCT, given the sensitivities attaching to it.

2. Jeff Rooker indicated that he wanted to consider a press statement from the Secretary of State announcing the appointment of a political-level oversight body. (A further announcement can be made once the Panel is in place - this might take a few weeks, not least because of the UUP party leader election process.) The opportunity could be taken in the press release to give details of the masterplanning assignment. It may be desirable to reveal information about the stadium capacity under consideration - DCAL will deal with this separately and if necessary a revised press release will be prepared.

Advice

Structure

3. The need for a political level grouping is already accepted by the parties by virtue of their endorsement of the former Maze Panel's report. Whilst there is a desire for robust engagement on the issues with officials and the SIB, and for momentum, there is consensus that the body would be purely advisory, not executive. Officials have taken soundings within the four main parties and all appear to accept the need for the DUP and Sinn Féin to be in the lead. Discussions suggested a preference for a small, focused body of six members, very similar to the previous panel ie one nominee by each party leader, with a further nomination by the DUP for chair, and by Sinn Féin for vice-chair. Ian Pearson had earlier this year considered the option of a body chaired directly by the Minister, but this did not emerge as a preference, and risks straying beyond the advisory remit.

Composition and remit

4. You may wish to consider the involvement of smaller parties (representing some 6-7% of the electorate). The former Panel was restricted to those parties forming the Executive, receiving some initial (but not sustained) criticism from the Alliance Party of NI. The effectiveness of the former Panel however indicates that a similar constitution might be the most practicable. Regular briefing of Lisburn City Council should balance any non-representation. There is no need

for a large number of officials on the Panel, as was the case with the previous body, since a Programme Board of officials with senior representation from the SIB is now in place. The Chief Executive of Lisburn City Council was involved in the previous Panel but is relaxed about representation on the new body as long as officials remain in regular contact. Secretariat would be provided by OFMDFM.

5. A short note on the constitution and remit of the body is attached. I recommend that you agree this, noting particularly the modest fee rates. The last Panel was unpaid but members often found attendance difficult and a reasonable incentive and reward is appropriate.

Recommendation

6. I recommend that you agree to the process for the appointment of the MLKOP, to its proposed constitution and remit, to the draft press release (attached), and to the draft letter to the political parties (also attached).

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"Getting the agreement of all four political parties to the vision for the Maze Long Kesh site was a real achievement. Much work remains to be done to examine the prospects for turning imagination into reality. I want to ensure that the parties continue to be involved in the run-up to major decisions about the site.

"The first tasks of the new Panel will be to work with the masterplanners appointed by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and their advisers, the Strategic Investment Board, to produce by this autumn a realistic framework for the regeneration of the site, and, in tandem, to oversee business planning work for the proposed multi-sports stadium and the International Centre for Conflict Transformation (ICCT)."

OVERSIGHT PANEL FOR THE MAZE/LONG KESH REGENERATION SITE

Secretary of State Peter Hain today announced that a new body - the Maze/Long Kesh Oversight Panel - will be given a key role in the planning and regeneration of the Maze/Long Kesh site, near the junction of the M1 and A1. The Secretary of State said:

"I am delighted to announce this vital component in the planning and delivery of this potentially massive regeneration project. The site of the old prison and army base is huge, and with its strategic location it is clearly a key asset for Northern Ireland. It's critical that the political parties are involved in the preparatory plans and that they oversee the implementation of any decisions that the government makes."

The Secretary of State revealed that Reinvestment and Reform Initiative Minister Jeff Rooker has written to the leaders of the four main political parties to invite them to make nominations to the Panel. He praised the work done by the Maze Consultation Panel which reported in February:

"Getting the agreement of all four political parties to the vision for the Maze Long Kesh site was a real achievement. Much work remains to be done to examine the prospects for turning imagination into reality. I want to ensure that the parties continue to be involved in the run-up to major decisions about the site."

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Notes to Editors:

The 30 March OFMDFM press release flagged the appointment of the masterplanners as well the governments intention to involve the political parties in future work on the Maze/Long Kesh site. The press release referred to an invitation to expert teams of professionals . The successful consortium is lead by environment, transport and infrastructure specialists Mott MacDonald, with masterplanners EDAW. EDAW are developing the masterplans for the London 2012 Olympics did, and the regeneration plans for the Lea Valley, whether or not the bid is successful. Full details of the consortium and their experience are on the newfuturemazelongkesh.com website.

Work on the multi-sports stadium, including negotiations with the key sporting bodies, is continuing. As announced in the 30 March press release, the Maze/Long Kesh site is the only one under consideration in the development of a business plan.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Panel will be the nominees of each of the leaders of the political parties who made up the former NI Executive.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP

In addition, the Oversight Panel will be chaired and vice-chaired by, respectively, the nominees of the leaders of the DUP and SF.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The main objectives of the Panel are to:

1. Oversee, review and monitor the work of the Maze/Long Kesh Programme Board (and of the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) and OFMDFM in relation to the site) to help ensure continued momentum and direction in the development, and, subject to any decisions that may be considered by the government to invest in the regeneration, delivery of plans to regenerate the Maze/Long Kesh site;

DRAFT

MAZE/LONG KESH
OVERSIGHT PANEL

1. PURPOSE

The government wants to ensure that the Maze/Long Kesh regeneration mission is planned and prepared for; and, subject to any decisions that may be considered by the government to invest in the regeneration of the site, to ensure that such plans are commissioned and implemented in such a way that it delivers the outcomes envisioned in the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative. The government believes that involvement and commitment of the main political parties is central to success, hence the designation of the Oversight Panel. The Panel's role will be oversight and assurance, rather than operational or executive, and it will work in close co-operation with officials involved in delivery.

Until decisions about the potential for investment in the site are made, the Panel will exist on an interim basis. The constitution and membership of the Panel will therefore be reviewed following any decisions to invest in the site, and consideration of the masterplanning advice from consultants.

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The main objectives of the Panel are to:

- i. Oversee, review and monitor the work of the Maze/Long Kesh Programme Board (and of the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) and OFMDFM in relation to the site) to help ensure continued momentum and direction in the development, and, subject to any decisions that may be considered by the government to invest in the regeneration, delivery of plans to regenerate the Maze/Long Kesh site;

- ii. Ensure that the development potential of the site is fully explored; and
- iii. help promote the regeneration of the site at a local, national and international level;

5. SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat function will be provided by OFMDFM.

6. AUTHORITY

The Panel shall:

- i. take reports on the development and implementation of all plans for the regeneration of the site;
- ii. meet with relevant officials involved in the regeneration of the Maze/Long Kesh as and when required;
- iii. ask for any necessary papers or other materials to fulfil its terms of reference;
- iv. work with the masterplanners where appropriate during their commission;
- v. ask OFMDFM or the SIB to commission on its behalf, subject to available resources and government accounting requirements, such independent professional advice which it deems necessary for the regeneration of the site;
- vi. make reports and comment at any time to officials who shall in turn and in reasonable time respond fully and constructively;
- vii. to report to the Minister on the delivery of the remit of the Panel; and to
- viii. travel, at civil service rates, where reasonable and necessary and with the agreement of the Chair and vice-Chair, in the fulfilment of the Panel's duties.

7. PAYMENT

Except where members of the Panel are already paid full time out of central or local government funds or grant in aid, a payment of £[100] per part-day Panel meeting attendance shall be paid. Full day meetings would warrant a double payment.

OFMDFM
June 2005

DRAFT LETTER FROM JEFF ROOKER TO NI POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS

MAZE/LONG KESH REGENERATION - NOMINATIONS TO OVERSIGHT PANEL

I am writing to invite a party nomination for membership of an Oversight Panel [and, additionally, to invite a further nomination for the post of Chair [Vice-chair]]. The task of the Oversight Panel will be to ensure that the Maze/Long Kesh regeneration mission is planned and prepared for effectively; and, subject to any decisions that may be considered by the government to invest in the regeneration of the site, to ensure that such plans are commissioned and implemented in such a way that it delivers the outcomes envisioned in the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative.

The government believes that involvement and commitment of the main political parties is central to success, hence the designation of the Oversight Panel. I attach a note setting out the terms of reference and composition of the Panel. Its first tasks will be to work with the masterplanners appointed by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and their advisers, the Strategic Investment Board, to produce by this autumn a realistic framework for the regeneration of the site, and, in tandem, to oversee business planning work for the proposed multi-sports stadium and the International Centre for Conflict Transformation (ICCT).

Your nominee[s] may or may not be elected representatives - the only requirement is that the interests and perspectives of your party on the issues at hand are represented and communicated.

I very much look forward to your reply so that the Oversight Panel can be set up as soon as possible.

Jeff Rooker
Minster of State