

The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

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From: Margaret Glass

cc Mr Madden

15 August 00

To: Robert Patterson
Services
DETI

FORMER DED FILES

I understand you have recently taken over from Gus Close in Services in DETI.

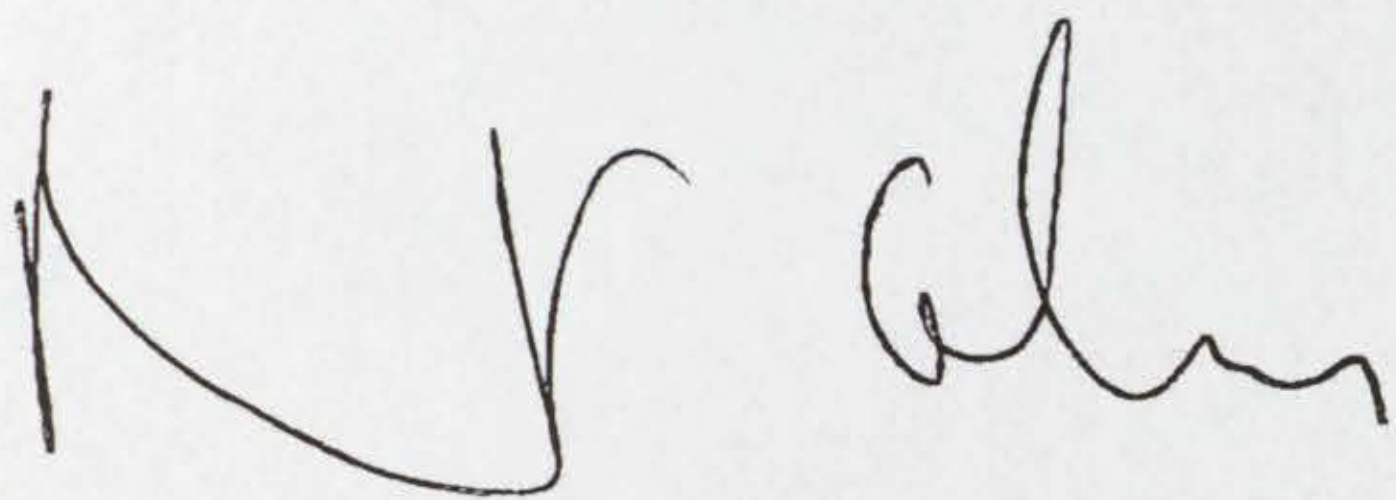
This Branch, which was formerly part of DED, moved from Netherleigh in March this year. Of necessity we had to bring with us a large number of confidential files dealing with the MacBride Principles campaign. (This relates to a campaign in America to impose a code of conduct on firms operating in Northern Ireland.) These files date as far back as 1976.

Recently Kevin McNamara MP requested copies of documentation from some of these files. This was declined in the main as departmental records would not be due for release until they are 30 years old and it would not be a reasonable use of resources to search the files for information already in the public domain.

As these files may be of interest to future researchers this query has highlighted to us the need to ensure all our earlier "MacBride" files are registered. I am not sure if this was always the case. (Mary Jones in your Branch checked about 15 files and most of the early ones did not appear to be registered.)

I have a list of all the files we hold (there are several hundred) and I wonder if there is any way we can check on the earlier ones. Also, if they are not registered how can I go about doing this retrospectively.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Glass' in a cursive style.

Margaret Glass (Mrs)