

DSD
Department for
Social Development

From The Minister for Social Development

FROM: Nigel Dodds, MLA

cc: Mr Hurkan

DATE: 31 January 2000

TO: First Minister
Deputy First Minister

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. I am writing to set out my views on certain aspects of the paper for tomorrow's Executive Committee meeting, with the exception of the Structural Funds Paper EC(00)20. The latter is the subject of a separate submission reflecting the importance of this issue.

Minutes and Matters Arising EC(00)3

2. I have separately advised you of my endorsement of your proposal to extend the consultation period on new TSN for three weeks until 28 February.

Ministerial Code EC(00)18

3. I am aware that the Executive Committee has not yet considered how public appointments will be dealt with. As previously indicated I believe that procedures for public appointments should ensure fairness, consistency and transparency. I believe that the Committee should formally endorse the procedures set out in the current "Guidance on Public Appointments" devised by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in NI.

Legislative Programme EC(00)19

4. I welcome the inclusion of the Street Trading and Child Support etc Bills in the Executive Committee's legislative programme. As you are aware the timetable is tight for both Bills. In respect of the former, while it remains my wish to complete all the preliminary stages in time for the Bill to be introduced before the end of June, the second stage is likely to be "Post-Recess". On the Child Support etc Bill, although the measure will be drafted by DSD staff in accordance with normal arrangements for processing parity measures, Counsel will continue to have an interest. The date for introducing the Bill will depend on the completion of all the legislative stages in GB.

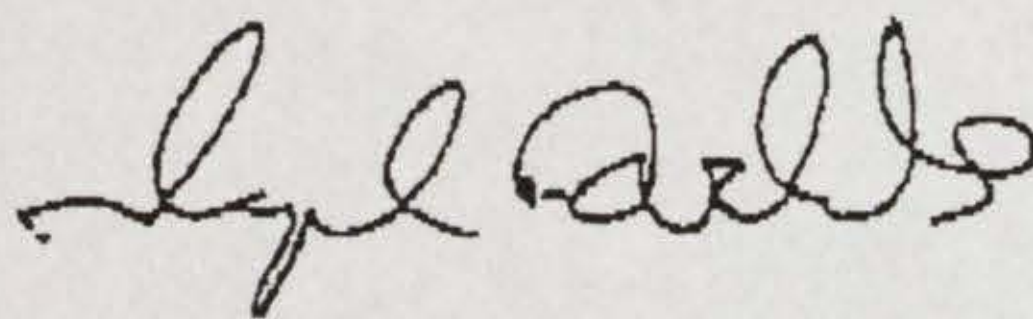
Flying of Flags (EC(00)21)

5. I wish to register in the strongest terms my opposition to any Minister who refuses to abide by the Schedule for Days for Hoisting Flags on Government Buildings as set out by the Department for Culture Media and Sport. This is clearly intended to apply on a UK-wide basis. There should be a consistent policy across all Departments that the national flag will fly from all appropriate buildings on the designated days.

Programme of Government EC(00)22)

6. I continue to believe that the timetable set out is extremely optimistic. I understand that arrangements have been made for a Ministerial bilateral on my DSD submission on 10 February. On that occasion, I will be keen to emphasise

the cross cutting nature of DSD's proposals and the contribution of DSD to
targeting social need and promoting social inclusion.



NIGEL DODDS MLA
Minister For Social Development
