



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (N.I.)
STORMONT, BELFAST BT4 3TX

James A Kilfedder Esq BA BL MP
Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SY

THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE

11 APR 1984

NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY

// April 1984

Dear Mr Speaker,

Your Private Secretary forwarded on 23 March the Report of the Assembly on the proposed Local Government Change of District Name (Londonderry) Order (Northern Ireland) 1984, which I have carefully considered.

In my evidence to the Environment Committee on 8 March 1984 I explained the reasons why the Government considered it should approve the application by the Londonderry City Council. These are as follows:-

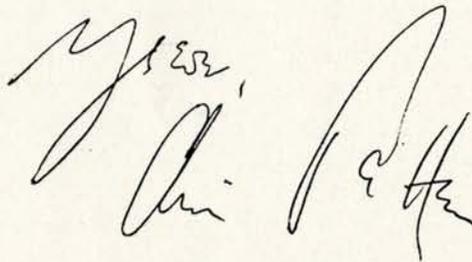
- the Londonderry City Council resolved by a substantial majority that an application be made to change the name of the district;
- the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 makes provision for changing the name of the district;
- the new name proposed is not inappropriate for the district council area;
- in Great Britain the change would be effected by the Council without reference to Government.

In my consideration of the recommendations contained in the Report I have taken note of the evidence given to the Environment Committee subsequent to my appearance on 8 March.

The debate has served to underline the strength of feeling that exists on this issue. However, none of the arguments put forward in any way invalidates the grounds on which the Government's decision was taken and in the circumstances I have instructed the Department to make the Order today as drafted. The Order relates to the name of the district and not to the name of the City which was conferred by Royal Charter.

I have already written separately to the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Mr Peter Robinson MP, about Assembly recommendation 5.4 concerning the application of Section 51(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

With regard to the remaining recommendations the Department will of course continue to exercise the responsibilities conferred on it by the Local Government Act of 1972 in relation to local authorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Patten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

CHRIS PATTEN