

① Miss Brown - to see  
② PA into previous Hqs  $\frac{18}{4}$

Mr C Patten MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
Parliament Buildings  
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17 April 1984

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE OF DISTRICT NAME (LONDONDERRY) ORDER  
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 1984**

On the 11 April 1984 you wrote to the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly conveying the response of the Government to the Assembly Report on the proposed Local Government Change of District Name (Londonderry) Order (Northern Ireland) 1984. After your letter had been read by the Speaker to the Assembly, I indicated that the Environment Committee would wish to consider the Government's response.

You also wrote to me on 11 April explaining that the Statutory Rule changing the name of the local government District of Londonderry to Derry, under the provisions of Section 51(1) of the Local Government Act (NI), would come into effect on the 7 May 1984 and emphasised that the Statutory Rule would only give effect to the change of name of the District.

The Committee considered the matter at its meeting today. It accepts that your letter to the Speaker and your letter of the 21 March 1984 to me responds clearly to two of the Recommendations in the Report of the Assembly. However the Committee wishes to have clarification of your response to two others, namely Recommendations 5.2 and 5.3. In making these Recommendations the Assembly had in mind the need to safeguard the minority community in Londonderry, a point to which I referred in the brief discussion of your letter which took place in the Assembly on the 11 April 1984 (see NI Assembly, Official Report, Volume 9, No 19).

The Committee now requests that you clarify your statement that the Department will "continue to exercise the responsibilities conferred on it by the Local Government Act of 1972 in relation to Local Authorities".

PETER ROBINSON MP  
Chairman

lcc  
Mr. Wolstonsel  
H. Coxwell  
H. Hamilton

Mr. Sullivan  
AS