

CONFIDENTIAL

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc: Mr Hamilton

Mr McConnell

Mr Hill  
Law and Order Division

*NB*  
*Spoke to David Hill - re info*  
*Case of action as at X - Nigel Hamilton wants to know*  
*position of 16/9*

PROPERTIES OCCUPIED BY SINN FEIN

You will recall that DOE lets us have regular information about properties occupied by Sinn Fein. I attach a copy of Mr Hamilton's note of 16 June which gives some interesting information about DOE owned properties on the Shankill Road. The use of the properties listed at paragraph 5 seems particularly worrying and it could be very embarrassing if it ever became public knowledge that government was the owner of premises at which weapons were found. I would be glad of your views on this: at the very least DOE should be encouraged to press ahead with possession as quickly as possible even if it meant that the site was left vacant for some time.

*J G Sullivan*

J G SULLIVAN

Central Secretariat  
Stormont Castle  
BELFAST  
BT4 3ST

19 June 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

JT

CONFIDENTIAL



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
STORMONT, BELFAST BT4 3SS

TO: Mr Sullivan, Central Secretariat

FROM: Mr N Hamilton

OCCUPATION OF PREMISES

1. You are aware that, from time to time, I carry out an update of premises which are occupied by certain organisations.
2. I have also received the enclosed minute in respect of certain property on the Shankill Road, Belfast of which you should be aware.
3. The information in paras 3-5 may be of interest to others. I should be grateful therefore if you could supply this information to those whom you think appropriate and, if there are any other considerations which are relevant in our current or proposed future activities in relation to any individual property, perhaps you could advise me accordingly. I have not copied this minute to anyone else at this stage apart from Mr Simpson in the Belfast Development Office of DOE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

N HAMILTON  
Department of the Environment (NI)

16 June 1986

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13 JUN 86  
1333

Mr N Hamilton  
Assistant Secretary  
Central Division

TENANCIES OF DOE PROPERTY ON SHANKILL ROAD, BELFAST

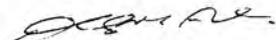
1. This Department continues to own much of the Shankill Road commercial frontage which it acquired from NIHE in the late 1970s. Our tenants are for the most part shopkeepers, but 4 of our properties are occupied by organisations whose names or activities suggest that they might bear further investigation to ensure that our remaining their landlord is consistent with current policy. In particular there may be security implications. All are our legitimate tenants and pay their rent regularly.
2. Information on each is below. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the appropriate advice to be obtained.
3. 200A Shankill Road - Tenant: Mr James McDonald

These premises are shared by Alderman Hugh Smyth, who has an Advice Centre, and the Loyalist Prisoners Welfare Association.

The property occupies part of a site which we expect to need in the next year or so for new development by Belfast Co-operative Society Limited with whom we are in active negotiations. In turn we are in touch with Mr Smyth about relocation of the occupants to a vacant shop in our ownership also on Shankill Road. This would involve some repair work at DOE expense to prepare the vacant premises for the new tenants. In itself, this would be a legitimate management expense, but it could be made to appear that we were doing the work for the benefit of the 2 organisations concerned.

4. 182 Shankill Road - Tenant: North Belfast Mutual Association  
This is the Shankill Black Taxi organisation. We have no plans to redevelop the site and are in touch with the Association about the possibility of their buying the property.
5. 9-11 Downing Street - Tenant: Ulster Loyalist Sports and Social Club  
4-8 Craven Street - Tenant: Shankill Sports Social and Recreation Club

These are both licensed clubs. We are considering proposals for the longer term redevelopment of the site for new housing but we would be unlikely to be seeking possession before 1990/91. The security forces recently found weapons in the Craven Street premises.

  
D S S McAULEY  
Comprehensive Development Branch  
Clarendon House

12 June 1986

SN

cc - Mr Simpson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~