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28 SEP 1994



Head of the Northern Ireland
Civil Service
David Fell CB

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HCS/885/94

28 September 1994

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Professor R A B Mollan MD FRCS FRCSI
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Musgrave Park Hospital
Stockmans Lane
BELFAST BT9 7JB

~~Mr Elliott~~

Mr Watkins

Miss Steele

Dear Lab,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September about the possibility of a VVIP opening the new scanner at the Musgrave Park Hospital.

As you say, the IRA ceasefire, if it proves to be permanent, will create a new climate for such events and there is every prospect, in that case, that we would be able to look sympathetically at your request.

As it happens, we seem unlikely to be in a position to secure a VVIP for a function of this nature before 1995, but I would be hopeful, provided that the ceasefire is holding, that we might be able to include the event in our programme for consideration next year - assuming of course that this timescale is acceptable to you.

If however, you would prefer to have the scanner opened before the end of the year, I would be happy to pass on your request to the Secretary of State or Baroness Denton. Perhaps you would let me know how you wish to proceed.

Yours sincerely

David

DAVID FELL

This is news to me, but our Mutual opening would be desirable.

Mr Hunter:
Noted, thanks

Mr Hunter

Not clear if you were consulted in my absence. Is the Musgrave Park Scanner "OK" for an official opening?

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FROM: VALERIE STEELE
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
26 SEPTEMBER 1994

cc Mr Elliott
Mr Watkins

B

PS/MR FELL - B

INVITATION TO OPEN MUSGRAVE PARK SCANNER

1. Professor Mollan has written to Mr Fell, seeking his advice about the possibility of a VVIP to officially open the Musgrave Park scanner, in the light of the IRA ceasefire. Professor Mollan made a similar request to Mr Fell last year and security advice at that time precluded the hospital from consideration for a VVIP visit. I believe that Mr Fell spoke to Professor Mollan about this matter.
2. I have spoken to Security Branch of the RUC and Superintendent Irvine advises that although military activities have ceased, PIRA are still gathering intelligence and therefore just at present they would not recommend this location. However, Superintendent Irvine stressed that the general security situation is being closely monitored and it is likely that if/when the 'permanence' of the ceasefire is acknowledged and 'the clock starts ticking' that previously sensitive locations such as the Musgrave Park Hospital, could become viable again, possibly by the end of the year.
3. As you are aware, we do not at present have a prospect of a Royal Visitor between now and December who could be asked to include this engagement in their programme, but if Professor Mollan would be willing to hold the opening over until next year, we could consider it for inclusion in a

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programme during 1995. Mr Elliott was also keen to have the replacement wards for those destroyed in the bombing at the Musgrave Park Hospital, re-opened by a Royal Visitor and depending on the timing of their completion, we might consider both.

4. The attached draft reply is for Mr Fell's consideration.

[Signed VJS]

VALERIE J STEELE

will create a new climate for such events and there is every prospect, when that happens, that we would be able to look sympathetically at your request.

As it happens, we are unlikely to be in a position to secure a WWIZ before 1995, but I would be hopeful, provided that the ceasefire is permanent, that we might be able to include this event in our programme for consideration next year - assuming of course that this timescale is acceptable to you.

If however, you would prefer to have the scanner opened before the end of the year, I would be happy to pass on your request to the Secretary of State or Baroness Denton. Perhaps you would let me know how you wish to proceed.

DAVID FELL

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DRAFT

HCS/ /94

September 1994

Professor R A B Mollan MD FRCS FRCSI
The Queen's University of Belfast
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Musgrave Park Hospital
BELFAST BT9 7JB

Thank you for your letter of 13 September about the possibility of a VVIP opening the new scanner at the Musgrave Park Hospital.

As you say, the IRA ceasefire, when it is recognised as permanent will create a new climate for such events and there is every prospect, when that happens, that we would be able to look sympathetically at your request.

As it happens, we are unlikely to be in a position to secure a VVIP before 1995, but I would be hopeful, provided that the ceasefire is permanent, that we might be able to include this event in our programme for consideration next year - assuming of course that this timescale is acceptable to you.

If however, you would prefer to have the scanner opened before the end of the year, I would be happy to pass on your request to the Secretary of State or Baroness Denton. Perhaps you would let me know how you wish to proceed.

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Mr Elliott

Mr Watkins

Miss Steele

B. D. Royce

MUSGRAVE PAGE - 1993, 2 & 3. DEPUTATIONS AND MEET. 11. 11. 11.

1. I write to you this week. This matter. I am now advised that your 1993 Monitoring will provide £1.5m approximately as the second instalment of the various cost of alarm. You will need £1.5m in 93/94 of a total cost of £4.5m approximately.

2. I should be grateful if you could confirm this at the earliest date and advise that this can now be considered to Capital Planning Branch. You will know that the new block at Musgrave has now opened and UPL cover to the Trust for completion was provided this year.

F. W. LYNCH

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