



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL

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Belfast BT4 3SW

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FROM: JACK LAYBERRY  
EUROPEAN DIVISION  
DATE: 20 JANUARY 1998

cc Miss Wilson

PS/MR SEMPLE

EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION  
PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Following a recent discussion, Mr Semple asked for a draft note to PS/Mr Murphy to advise him how we were taking the above matter forward.
2. A draft is attached.

*Handwritten notes:*  
1. Mr Shaw  
2. Mr Sedayee  
3. Mr JW 26/1  
20/1  
26/1

*Handwritten signature:* Jack Layberry  
JM V LAYBERRY  
☎ 21663

DRAFT

FROM: J L SEMPLE

DATE: JANUARY 1998

cc Mr Jardine  
Mr Layberry  
Dr Mulligan

PS/MR MURPHY (DFP, B&L)

**EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:  
PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. My submission of 5 January 1998 to PS/Secretary of State described the work which the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is carrying out to confirm the level of uptake of funding by the two communities under the Peace and Reconciliation Programme. Subsequently, the Minister asked 'how are we to feed this into Unionism?'.
2. The uptake analysis being undertaken by NISRA will form the basis of a report to the Peace Programme Monitoring Committee meeting in March/April 1998 (date to be confirmed). Once the report and its recommendations have been agreed by the Monitoring Committee, we propose to copy it to all implementing agencies involved in the Programme, including the Northern Ireland Partnership Board (NIPB) which will be asked to disseminate the report to all District Partnerships. One-third of the membership of the NIPB and the District Partnerships consists of representatives of the political parties, including the Unionists, who will therefore have the opportunity to see the report and its recommendations. In addition, given the importance which

the NIPB attaches to this issue, it is likely that the report will be discussed at a full NIPB meeting.

3. It is also proposed that the Minister should send the report when it becomes available to the 3 NI MEPs who raised the issue as part of their recent review of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme and should offer them an opportunity to discuss the matter further.
4. In the meantime, the Action Plan, containing recommendations regarding the second tranche of the Programme, will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Monitoring Committee on 29 January. It highlights the issue of community uptake within the Programme. Once it is agreed, it is suggested that the Minister might write to the NI MEPs to confirm what is happening and to advise them that they will be kept informed of developments.
5. If the Minister is content with this approach, an appropriate draft will be brought forward from him to send to the 3 NI MEPs once the Action Plan has been agreed.

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

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Date: 22-Dec-1997 12:57pm GMT  
From: Ian Maye  
Ian Maye, DFP, NICS  
Dept: DFP  
Tel No:

TO: Stephen Quinn

(Stephen Quinn, DFP, NICS)

CC: Jack Layberry

(Jack Layberry, DFP, NICS)

Subject:

The Secretary of State is meeting the PUP tonight. She thinks that they might raise the question of the balance of funding between "Protestant and Catholic" projects. She would be grateful for any statistics you might have, together with a few examples of projects in protestant areas which have been funded recently and one or two general points which she might make if the issue is raised.

The meeting is at 7.00pm. Could you or Jack put something forward.

Many thanks.

One blank  
sheet

Mr Layberry  
Draft attached.  
J Maye

SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME:  
PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC PARTICIPATION

LINE TO TAKE

- Aware that there is concern about the balance of funding between the two communities - perception that the Protestant community has benefited to a lesser extent than might have been expected.
- Essential that both communities benefit in an equitable fashion from the Programme. Particular emphasis has been given to this in the action plan for the allocation of the second tranche of funding for the Programme.
- The distribution of funding is currently being investigated. The recent Coopers and Lybrand study concluded that the Social Inclusion Sub-programme had overcome the obstacle of less developed community infrastructure and that Protestants communities had actually done well in terms of project approvals.
- Statistics on projects funded not yet available but further research is currently underway. NISRA is in the process of commissioning a "community uptake analysis" which will consider the whole Programme and report in the Spring.
- Examples of projects in Protestant areas include:

LINC Resource Centre, Shore Road - £67,000

Ex-prisoners Interpretative Centre (approved in principle) - £200,000

Prisoners Enterprise Project, Donegall Pass - £70,000

Shankill Women's Centre - £10,000

Glencairn People's Project, Shankill - £19,000

East Belfast Independent Heritage Ltd - £20,000

LWil(L)10896JMcC



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JA 13078/97/12

Mr Shaw 16/12

Mrs

To free

9/15/12

FROM: John Semple

cc: PS/Mr Murphy (DFP, B&L)

DATE: 9 December 1997

Mr Quinn

~~Mr Lavberry~~

Dr Mulligan

9/1/12

TO: PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

Ms Miller

Please advise

CB 13/12

**EU PEACE PROGRAMME: PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. The Secretary of State asked for advice about the levels of Protestant/Catholic participation in the Peace Programme and the perception that the Protestant community had benefited less from EU funding under the Programme.

**Background**

2. The suggestion was originally contained in the report prepared by the special advisers to the 3 NI MEPs following their one week visit to NI. The report reflects the views expressed to them during their visit and will be taken into account during the ongoing review of the Programme.
3. The perception that Catholic communities have received a higher than proportionate share of the available funding was investigated by Coopers & Lybrand in its mid-term evaluation of the Programme. This work was based only on the first 18 months of the Programme and related only to the Social Inclusion Sub-programme.
4. Coopers & Lybrand concluded that overall 'it is likely that 'Catholic areas' have attracted a higher share of approvals'. However, when they allowed for population size and deprivation, it seemed that 'Catholic areas have received a less than proportionate share of approvals'. The consultants interpreted this in a positive way, suggesting that the Social Inclusion Sub-programme had overcome the obstacle of less developed community infrastructure in Protestant areas. Indeed, the recent DFP Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Omnibus Survey indicates that there appears to be as much (and increasing) awareness of the Peace Programme in the Protestant community as in the Catholic community.

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5. The available statistical analysis, therefore, is not consistent with Protestants 'losing out' from the Peace Programme. However, the evaluation related to only one part of the Programme at a relatively early stage.

**The Core Issue**

6. The core issue is one of perception rather than statistical analysis. The bottom line is that, if the funding from the Peace Programme is spent by and large in the areas of greatest disadvantage and need, the outcome would probably be something broadly in the region of 70/30 Catholic/Protestant. This seems from the preliminary analysis to be the general direction in which the Programme is heading. However, this would almost certainly be regarded as an unacceptable outcome by the Protestant community, which would expect something broadly in line with the 60/40 Protestant/Catholic population split.
7. Some sectors of the Protestant community are adopting a more realistic stance. Mr Spence copied to the Secretary of State on 18 November a submission entitled 'EU District Partnerships and the Ulster Unionists', which reported on a seminar for Ulster Unionist Councillors organised by Jim Nicholson on 15 November. In concluding the seminar, Mr Nicholson is reported as making the significant point that the catching up required in the Protestant community is largely the responsibility of the Protestant community. He suggested that it was not up to others to resolve this problem, and that realistically it would take years to address the imbalance of applications. He added that this is not a matter that could be resolved in the next tranche of the Peace Programme.

**Conclusion**

8. However, while this is a helpful input from Mr Nicholson, we are still faced with a difficult and potentially no win situation. Over the coming months, we propose to address the problem in the following ways:-
  - i. As part of the review of the Programme, DFP has proposed that the following general principle should be followed by funding bodies in the second tranche:-

'As highlighted in the MEPs' report, every effort should be made and every assistance given to ensure (within the parameters of the Programme) that all sectors of the population participate fully in the Programme. Where community infrastructure is weak, action should be taken to address this.'
  - ii. Many of the funding bodies will be considering how to distribute funds more effectively in the second round and are expected to give greater support to the Protestant community. However, the quality of project will still be of fundamental importance.

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- iii. NISRA intends to commission a 'community uptake analysis', drawing on more comprehensive data for the whole Programme. This will facilitate a report to the Monitoring Committee in March 1998.
- iv. Senior officials are meeting with political representatives involved in the Peace Programme to discuss this issue. I will be meeting shortly with Dr Paisley and Nigel Dodds in this context.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Semple". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JOHN SEMPLE

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**FROM: JACK LAYBERRY  
EUROPEAN DIVISION  
DATE: | DECEMBER 1997**

*X) 1/12  
Mrs Hook CB 4/12  
Mrs Blakely  
To note + file  
please  
Mrs Miller  
21/12*

cc **Mr Quinn  
Dr Mulligan  
Mr Shaw**

**PS/MR SEMPLE**

**EU PEACE PROGRAMME: PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. As discussed, I attach a draft submission from you to the Secretary of State on the above issue.
2. I will be in Brussels most of this week chairing the trilaterals and participating in a DFP seminar organised by NICE at Leuven. For information, this is a training seminar for 20+ Sub-programme Leaders from all Departments with post-1999 negotiations in mind.
3. If you have any queries about this draft submission, please speak to Gerry Mulligan (Ext: 26935) or Robin Shaw (Ext: 21746).

*Jack Layberry*  
**J M V LAYBERRY**  
Ext: 21663