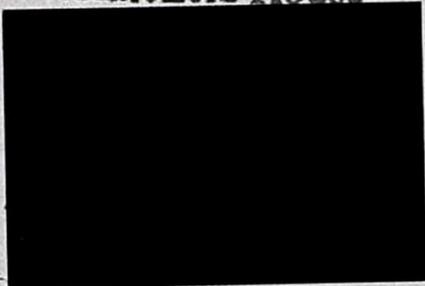


Hazlefield House



Fax to: Gerry Osgrave, 01232-521-399

From: John Mayne

Date: 12 June 1998

Subject: Seminar 3

Number of pages, including this one: 2

*John Mayne*

I attach a very first draft of a design for Seminar 3. Before I start talking to a number of people about possible Chairmen, Experts and Speakers - my list is very much off the top of my head and probably out of date - could you let me know whether I am on the right lines?

*John Mayne*

*John Mayne*

*Mr Stuart ✓*

*for Public Finance file.*

*Please draw-up a contract letter similar to Ken Stoves, again for £600 per day + expenses.*

*J 15/6.*

### Seminar 3

#### Public Finance

**Objective:** to explain how public finance works; to examine the roles of Ministers, the Assembly and officials in raising the necessary funds to sustain good government, in safeguarding those funds against fraud, impropriety and waste and in securing value for money for the benefit of the people of Northern Ireland; and thereby to help to realise the vision of the Good Friday Agreement.

**Content:**

1. Economic Management: the links between income and expenditure, public and private; wages and prices; interest rates; and the sustainable level of economic activity. Fiscal policies. Medium term economic strategies. Control. Public private finance.
2. Income: tax, customs and excise duties, VAT and the relationships between tax rates and tax take.
3. Expenditure: overall control of public expenditure, control of individual departments' total expenditures, control within Departments and project/capital expenditure control. "Control" not narrowly defined as avoiding over-spending but as including spending to meet the intentions of Ministers and the Assembly, avoiding underspending and mis-spending and securing the best value for money for the people of Northern Ireland.
4. Accountability: accounts, current and capital; audit, internal and external, for propriety, relevance and value for money; the Assembly's role.

**Designer:** John Mayne in liaison with Stephen Quinn, Under-Secretary, DFP.

**Example Team:** Chair: X, supported by J Mayne.

Experts: X; Head of NICS; Department of Finance and Personnel

Representatives: Comptroller and Auditor General, NIAO;

Commissioner for Administration and Complaints?

Speakers: X

**Supplementary events and visits:** Visits to Institutes for Fiscal Studies and Public Accounts and Expenditure Committees in London, Dublin and Canada.

**Note:** X could include Professor Andrew Likierman, Professor John Kay, Andrew Dilnott, Dr Derek Morris, Christopher Allsopp as experts; and suitable Director-General from EU or Court of Auditors Irish C&AG or Sir John Bourn as Speaker.