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n, Karl

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Sent: 19 April 2001 14:15
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Subject: Correspondence -- Ref. Number: COR/316/2001



Adams.pdf

OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

URGENT - CORRESPONDENCE

Reference: COR/316/2001

Raised By: Gerry Adams

Subject: COR 316/01 - LETTER TO FM & DFM - IRISH LANGUAGES

Referred To: MRS DEVLIN

Date Referred: 19/04/2001

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice and a draft reply for signature by the First
Minister
and Deputy First Minister.

To be with Private Office not later than 26/04/2001 before Close of Play

Copied To For Input:
PS/Mr Morrow
PS/Mr McGimpsey
PS/Dr Farren
PS/Sir Reg Empey
PS/Mr Campbell
PS/Ms de Brun
PS/Mr Durkan

McGuinness
Foster
Mrs Rodgers

Please forward all inputs to MRS DEVLIN not later than 24/04/2001

For further information etc. contact :

Diane Smyth (Private Office)
Parliament Buildings Tel : 028 9052 1383

Copied To For Information:

PS/FM&DFM

PS/Mr Loughran

PS/PERM.SEC. (DETI)

PS/PERM.SEC. (DARD)

PS/PERM SEC (DCAL)

PS/PERM.SEC. (DENI)

PS/PERM.SEC. (DOE)

PS/PERM.SEC (DHSSPS)

PS/PERM.SEC (DFP)

PS/PERM.SEC (DHFETE)

PS/PERMSEC (DRD)

PS/PERM.SEC (DSD)

Mr Haire

Mr McCusker

Mr May

Mr McKervill

Mr Lavery

Mr Campbell

Mr Kerr

Dr Gudgin

Mr Larkin

Mr Logue

Mr Barrington

Mr Ross

Mr Larmour

Mrs Cosgrove

Miss A Rogers

Mr Henderson

GERRY ADAMS MP
SINN FÉIN
PRESIDENT



13 April 2001

Mr David Trimble MP MLA
First Minister
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3PP

a Chara, *David*

I am writing with regard to the provision of services to Irish Language communities. As you are aware, the Good Friday Agreement made a number of provisions with regard to the Irish Language. These included:

- Take resolute action to promote the language
- Facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private where there is appropriate demand
- Make provision for liaising with the Irish Language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints.

In order to enact these provisions there is an onus for government departments to communicate directly with the Irish Language community. While some departments are striving to meet the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, others have adopted a less comprehensive approach. This has led to inconsistency across the Executive and, to the disadvantage of Irish Speakers.

To this end I would be pleased if your office would begin the process of consulting with relevant Irish Language bodies to develop a uniform and comprehensive set of protocols for the use and promotion of Irish across all Executive departments.

Further to this there now exists an Irish Language weekly newspaper, 'La' which is planned to go daily in April 2002. As a first step to developing a comprehensive set of protocols should be the need to address the Irish Language community directly and so I would urge that 'La' should be added to the list of publications for press notices, public notices and job recruitment.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter

Is mise le meas

Gerry Adams MP

cc Mr Seamus Mallon MP MLA Deputy First Minister

GERRY ADAMS MP
SINN FÉIN
PRESIDENT



13 April 2001
Mr Seamus Mallon MP MLA
Deputy First Minister
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3PP

a Chara, *Seamus*

I am writing with regard to the provision of services to Irish Language communities. As you are aware, the Good Friday Agreement made a number of provisions with regard to the Irish Language. These included:

- Take resolute action to promote the language
- Facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private where there is appropriate demand
- Make provision for liaising with the Irish Language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints.

In order to enact these provisions there is an onus for government departments to communicate directly with the Irish Language community. While some departments are striving to meet the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, others have adopted a less comprehensive approach. This has led to inconsistency across the Executive and, to the disadvantage of Irish Speakers.

To this end I would be pleased if your office would begin the process of consulting with relevant Irish Language bodies to develop a uniform and comprehensive set of protocols for the use and promotion of Irish across all Executive departments.

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I look forward to hearing from you on this matter

Is mise le meas

Gerry Adams MP
cc Mr David Trimble MP MLA First Minister

DC 26/01
1352/01

FROM THE MINISTER'S OFFICE

DEPARTMENT
OF HIGHER
AND FURTHER
EDUCATION
TRAINING &
EMPLOYMENT

H55914

RECEIVED

30 APR 2001

PERMANENT SEC.

27 April 2001

To: PS/First Minister
PS/Deputy First Minister

cc See attached list

RECEIVED

01 MAY 2001

B3415

From: PS/Dr Farren

Mr Davis
12/01

Mr Johnston

B DAVIS

**PROVISION OF SERVICES TO IRISH LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES
(COR/316/2001)**

Issue: PS/Dr Farren has been asked to provide part input to a reply by PS/First Minister and PS/Deputy First Minister to a letter from Mr G Adams, MP, regarding the provision of services to Irish Language communities.

Recommendation: That PS/First Minister and PS/Deputy First Minister include the attached input in their reply to Mr Adams.

Background

1. Mr Adams, MP, has written to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister referring to a number of provisions set out in the Good Friday Agreement with regard to the Irish Language including:

- Taking resolute action to promote the language.
- Facilitating and encouraging the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private where there is appropriate demand.
- Making provision for liaising with the Irish Language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints.

2. Mr Adams raises some concern about consistency between Departments in fulfilling these commitments. He has asked that the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister begin a process of consulting with relevant Irish Language bodies to develop a uniform and comprehensive set of protocols for the use and promotion of Irish across all Executive Departments.
3. Mr Adams also suggests that the Irish Language weekly newspaper 'La' should be added to the list of publications for press notices, public notices and job recruitment.

Departmental Action

4. The Department has produced an Irish version of its Customer Charter and also has an Irish speaking Careers Officer who works with pupils in the Meanscoil Feirste (and Forbairt Feirste).
5. We have also been working positively with GAIRM with regard to the delivery of vocational qualifications through the medium of the Irish language and has provided £35k to support GAIRM's research into the demand for such training. (Dr Farren met with representatives of GAIRM and Forbairt Feirste on 11 April to review progress to date).
6. The Department funds initial teacher training through the medium of Irish at St Mary's University College, on the advice of the Department of Education. During 2000/01, this funding amounted to £90,000.
7. In relation to the weekly newspaper, 'La', the Department considers advertising and the placement of information on the same basis as other providers, taking account of the target audience, equality of opportunity and value for money.

8. At a recent interview with 'La' which was published in September 2000, Dr Farren covered major Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment themes to this Department.

Recommendation

9. DHFETE is playing a full and active part in the Inter-Departmental Group, led by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, to provide guidance to Departments on the implications of the ratification of the Council of Europe Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. When guidance is agreed the Department is committed to implementing it in full. Central OFMDFM action to co-ordinate and give guidance on issues relating to language would be welcomed.
10. A part draft reply to Mr Adams is attached.

Linda Kennedy

PP

LINDA MELDRUM
Private Secretary to Dr Farren

**PART DRAFT REPLY TO MR G ADAMS, MP, FOR SIGNATURE BY
FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

PROVISION OF SERVICES TO IRISH LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

The Department of Further and Higher Education, Training and Employment (DHFETE) has produced an Irish version of its Customer Charter and has an Irish speaking Careers Officer to work with pupils in the Meanscoil Feirste (and Forbairt Feirste).

DHFETE has been working positively with GAIRM with regard to the delivery of vocational qualifications through the medium of the Irish language and have provided £35k to support GAIRM's research into the demand for such training. Dr Farren recently met with GAIRM and Forbairt Feirste on 11 April to review progress to date.

DHFETE also funds initial teacher training through the medium of Irish at St Mary's University College, on the advice of the Department of Education. This funding amounted to £90,000 during the financial year 2000/01.

DHFETE is playing a full and active part in the Inter-Departmental Group, led by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, to provide guidance, to Departments on the implications of the ratification of the Council of Europe Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. When that guidance is agreed we are committed to implementing it in full.

In relation to the weekly newspaper, 'La', DHFETE considers advertising and the placement of information on the same basis as other providers, taking account of the target audience, equality of opportunity and value for money. Dr Farren has met, and been interviewed by, a journalist from 'La'. This interview, published in September 2000, covered major Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment themes.

Cc: PS/Mr Loughran
PS/Dr Farren
PS/Permanent Secretary (DETI)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DARD)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DCAL)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DENI)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DOE)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DHSSPS)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DFP)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DHFETE)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DRD)
PS/Permanent Secretary (DSD)
Mr Walters
Dr Davison
Mrs Flanagan
Mr Scott
Mr Gamble
Mr O'Doherty
Mrs Bell
Mr Mulgrew
Mr Haire
Mr McCusker
Mr May
Mr McKervill
Mr Lavery
Mr Campbell
Mr Kerr
Dr Gudgin
Mr Larkin
Mr Logue
Mr Barrington
Mr Ross
Mr Larmour
Mrs Cosgrove
Miss A Rogers
Mr Henderson
COR/169/2001

DE 26/01
1353/01

From: J G Hunter

cc: Mr Radcliffe

Dr Harbison

Date: 1 May 2001

Mr Thompson

Mr Keenan

Mr Davis

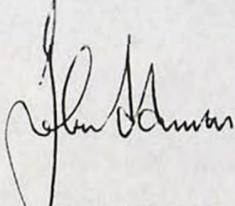
Mr Johnston

Mr Keenan

PS/Minister

IRISH LANGUAGE

1. Mr Gerry Adams MP recently wrote to the First and Deputy First Ministers on the provision of services for Irish language communities. He proposed that OFMDFM should consult with relevant Irish language bodies to develop a uniform and comprehensive set of protocols for the use and promotion of Irish across all Executive functions and that the Irish language newspaper "La" be added to the list of publications for press notices, public notices and job advertisements.
2. The draft reply for FM/DFM refers to the forthcoming guidance on the use of Irish in the official business of the devolved administration, which is to be submitted to the Executive for consideration and approval. The covering note from OFMDFM officials summarises the current position in regard to the use of the Irish language in official business. The Minister is asked to note the position in the programme for the issue of guidance.



J G HUNTER

**The Office of the First Minister
and Deputy First Minister**

H55-3/4
RECEIVED

Machinery of Government Division

PERMANENT

Block E, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SG
Tel: (028 90 5) 28301 e-mail tom.watson@ofmdfmi.gov.uk Fax: (028 90 5) 22337

From: Tom Watson

Tom Watson

Date: 30 April 2001

Copy distribution below

**PS/First Minister
PS/Deputy First Minister**

**GM/316/2001 CORRESPONDENCE TO FM AND DFM FROM GERRY
ADAMS RE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO IRISH LANGUAGE
COMMUNITIES**

Issue: Dealing with correspondence from Gerry Adams MP on the provision of services for Irish Language communities.

Timing: Routine.

Recommendation: That the First Minister and Deputy First Minister reply along the lines of the attached draft.

Background

1. The First Minister and Deputy First Minister have received correspondence from Gerry Adams MP with regard to the provision of services to Irish Language Communities.
2. Mr Adams refers to the Belfast Agreement as having a number of provisions with regard to the Irish Language including taking resolute action to promote the language, facilitating and encouraging the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private where there is appropriate demand and making provision for liaising with the Irish Language community.
3. In order to enact these provisions, Mr Adams suggests there is an onus on Government Departments to communicate directly with the Irish

Language community. He continues that while some Departments are striving to meet such provisions, others have adopted a less comprehensive approach. This has led to inconsistency across the Executive and, to the disadvantage of Irish speakers.

4. He concludes his correspondence with two requests: that OFMDFM begin the process of consulting with the relevant Irish Language bodies to develop a uniform and comprehensive set of protocols for the use and promotion of Irish across all Executive functions. Secondly, as a first step, he proposes that the Irish Language newspaper "La", which will be produced daily rather than weekly from next year, be added to the list of publications for press notices, public notices and job advertisements.

Current position

5. We have sought advice from NI Departments. Each are represented on an Inter-departmental Group, led by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, which is developing guidance to Departments on the implications of the ratification of the Council of Europe Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. The guidance is aimed at helping Departments promote Irish and to ensure a coherent approach. In the interim, individual Departments have been active in ensuring that their services take account of Irish Language users.
6. For example, DHFETE has produced an Irish version of its Customer Charter and has an Irish speaking Careers Officer to work with pupils in the Meanscoil Feirste (and Forbairt Feirste). The Department has also been working positively with GAIRM with regard to the delivery of vocational qualifications through the medium of the Irish Language and has provided £35K to support GAIRM research into the demand for such training. DHFETE also funds initial teacher training (£90K) through the medium of Irish at St Mary's University College, on the advice of DE.
7. In 1999, DCAL commissioned a comprehensive study of demand for government services in Irish and has more recently commissioned research into demand for early years care and education provision in the medium of Irish. A report is expected shortly.
8. Press releases, answers to Assembly Questions, public notices and advertisements issued by DHSS&PS appear in Irish as well as English. Under the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, DE may "pay grants to any body appearing to the Department to have as an objective the encouragement or promotion of Irish-medium education". Following consultation with all interested parties, the Promotional Body "Comhairle na Gaelscolaiochta" was established last August. In addition

a recent review carried out by DE reduced the viability criteria for Irish-medium (and integrated) primary schools.

Recommendation

9. Responsibility for developing guidance on the official use of the Irish Language falls to DCAL and the Inter-Departmental Charter Group. The guidance, when finalised, will initially be submitted to the DCAL Minister. However since it is a cross cutting issue, the guidance will come before the Executive for consideration and final approval.
10. Since there is no central government policy on advertising, an integral aspect of the guidance developed by the Inter-departmental Group will be to focus on the issue of publication lists including press notices, public notices and job advertisements in Irish Language newspapers such as "La". Following the Executive's ratification of such guidance, Departments will be committed to operating within the established framework. This will go some way to address the factors such as consistency of approach highlighted by Mr Adams and the disadvantage the present position may represent to users of the Irish Language.
11. Given the above, it is recommended that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister reply to Mr Adams, pointing out that work within the administration is proceeding, led by DCAL, to develop a framework of guidance on the use of Irish in official business. That guidance will be brought before the Executive for consideration and approval as soon as possible.
12. A draft along these lines is attached for consideration.

Tom Watson
Ext 28301

Distribution

PS/Ministers

PS/Mr Haughey
PS/Mr Nesbitt
PS/Mr Loughran
NI Perm Secs
Mr McCusker
Mr Haire
Mr McKervill
Mr May
Mr Lavery
Mrs Devlin
Mrs McGivern
OFMDFM advisers

**DRAFT LETTER FROM FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST
MINISTER TO GERRY ADAMS MP**

**Gerry Adams MP
President
Sinn Fein
51-55 Falls Road
Belfast
BT12 4PD**

April 2001

Thank you for your letter dated 13 April concerning the provision of services to Irish Language Communities.

We acknowledge the provisions in the Belfast Agreement with regard to the Irish Language and accept the onus on Departments in the administration to communicate directly with the Irish Language community. In this context we believe it important for a framework of guidance to be available to Departments which, along with their respective statutory responsibilities, can ensure that a coherent approach to the promotion of services to the Irish Language community is achieved.

In this regard the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, has already established an Inter-Departmental Group charged with drawing up guidance in relation to Article 10 of the Council of Europe Charter on Regional and Minority Languages on the use of Irish in the official business of the devolved administration. Work is proceeding to finalise the guidance and as the issue is cross cutting, it is anticipated that it will be submitted to the Executive for consideration and approval.

There is presently no central government policy in relation to advertising, therefore the guidance will address the position of the use of the Irish

Language in the area of publication lists and so on. In so doing we believe this will also help to develop greater consistency of approach across the administration.

David Trimble
First Minister

Seamus Mallon
Deputy First Minister