

From: Leslie Frew

Date: 1 December

**Bernie Rooney
HOCS Private Office**

Handwritten notes:
An Mhúinteoir 6/12
Forfeiliú 5/12

Meeting with Delegation from Omagh Business Forum Ltd

Your note of 30 November asked for comments on Gerry Loughran's paper which has been drafted for Ministers' consideration.

This Department has no particular difficulty with the line proposed although you should be aware that a Business Case is currently being prepared to establish a Peace and Reconciliation and Trauma Centre at Omagh and it is likely that financial support will be sought to advance this initiative also.

Clearly, Omagh is in need of regeneration but so are many other communities which have suffered from the Troubles. The question must be, therefore, do we continue to recognise Omagh as special?

Rather than accede to a request for Government assistance for a Taskforce to implement "Omagh 2010", the Executive might wish to consider establishing something along the lines of a "Post-Troubles Regeneration Fund" and invite bids either for funding or perhaps match funding. This might forestall criticism of more money for Omagh at the expense of others. At the same time if "Omagh 2010" is well developed it could be expected to be a front runner, for such funding.

Happy to discuss

Handwritten signature of Leslie Frew

L Frew

Handwritten note: BP 1496/00

cc Secretary
Mr Simpson
Mr Martin
Mr Turner



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

20/12

Head of the Civil Service
Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

Block E, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, BELFAST BT4 3SR, NORTHERN IRELAND

Phone: 028 9052 0048 Fax: 028 9052 2236 Email: gerry.loughran@ofmdfmi.gov.ni

From the Private Secretary

HCS/1214/00

FROM: BERNIE ROONEY
HOCS PRIVATE OFFICE
30 NOVEMBER 2000

cc **Mr Rooney**
Mrs Fleming
BF 1/12
TF

Mr Frew
Response drafted
to Mr Loughran's
office - copied to
Secretary by
12 noon Fri
1 December

TO: PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP

MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM OMAGH BUSINESS FORUM LTD

Mr Loughran recently met a delegation from Omagh Business Forum Ltd.

The Group were seeking support from Central Government for the Omagh Task Force.

A paper, as attached, has been drafted for Ministers' consideration. Mr Loughran would welcome your comments/views by **noon Friday 1 December 2000.**

Bernie Rooney

BERNIE ROONEY (Mrs)

30 NOV 2000
Lf 26/11

07:11 PM 10:04 FAX 122273

Turner, Boyd

From: Turner, Boyd
Sent: 01 December 2000 10:10
To: Frew, Leslie
Subject: Omagh Business Forum

Leslie

You asked for urgent comment on request for central assistance for an Omagh Task force to implement Omagh 2010.

Gerry Loughran's minute gives the barest outline as to the content of Omagh 2010 and its purpose, and I have not seen the original.

Clearly Omagh is in need of regeneration but so are many other communities. Omagh has already benefited post bomb from central Gov support eg the Omagh Trauma Centre with possibly a low secure unit. There are doubtless other examples in other fields.

The point in para 6 of Mr Loughran's minute is therefore quite valid. There are other communities which have suffered the troubles and are in need of regeneration. The question must be therefore do we continue to recognise Omagh as special.

Rather than accede to Omagh's bid the Executive might consider establishing a 'Post troubles regeneration' Fund and invite bids either for funding or match funding. This might forestall criticism of more money for Omagh at the expense of others. At the same time if Omagh 2010 is well developed it could expect to be a front runner.

Happy to discuss.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

*Boyd Turner / Stephen Jones
Paul Martin*

Fax No:

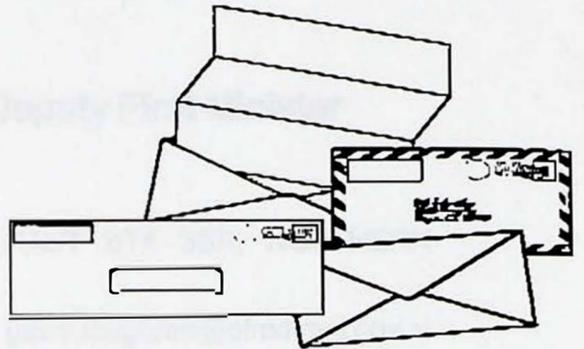
20574 + 20753

Topic Heading:

Message/Comments

*Please let me have your comments
keeping in mind the impact
Spain's Lakeland
by tomorrow morning just please!*

If you have any enquiries regarding this fax please Alison Burns on Belfast 028 90 22200



FAX MESSAGE

From: Mr L Frew
 Director - Child & Community Care
 Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
 Room D.4.11 Castle Buildings
 Stormont
 BELFAST BT4 3SJ

Telephone: 028 90 522786
 Fax: 028 90 523275

Date: _____ Time: _____

No of pages (including this one): _____



FOR THE ATTENTION OF: *Rayd Turner / Stephen Jackson*
Paul Martin

Fax No: *20574 + 24733*

Topic Heading:

Message/Comments

*Please let me have your comments
 keeping in mind the ~~latest~~
 Sperrin Lakeland.
 by tomorrow morning first time!*

If you have any enquiries regarding this fax please phone Alison Burne on Belfast 028 90 522680

1/12



Head of the Civil Service
Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

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DRAEI

HCS/1214/00

From the Private Secretary

HCS/1214/00

FROM: BERNIE ROONEY
HOCS PRIVATE OFFICE
30 NOVEMBER 2000

cc **Mr Rooney**
Mrs Fleming
BF 1/12
TF

Mr Flew
Response direct
to Mr Loughran's
office - copied to
Secretary by
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TO: PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP

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A paper, as attached, has been drafted for Ministers' consideration. Mr Loughran would welcome your comments/views by **noon Friday 1 December 2000.**

Bernie Rooney

BERNIE ROONEY (Mrs)

30 NOV 2000
Lf 26/11

Head of the Civil Service
Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

DRAFT

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HCS/1215/00

FROM: GERRY LOUGHRAN
28 NOVEMBER 2000 Distribution list attached

TO: PS/FIRST MINISTER
PS/DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM OMAGH BUSINESS FORUM LTD

Issue: Request for Government assistance for a Task Force which is being set up to implement the Omagh re-imaging Strategy, "Omagh 2010".

Timescale: As soon as possible.

Recommendations: The First Minister and Deputy First Minister are invited to agree to the following:

- (i) Central Government should appoint a Senior Civil Servant to the Omagh Task Force;
- (ii) That financial support might be provided from the Executive Programme Funds as a "pilot" exercise, when decisions are being made on allocations.

Detail

1. As you know Omagh 2010 was launched on 20 November by the Deputy First Minister and Mrs Trimble. The document itself includes a foreword by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister endorsing the strategy.

Head of the Civil Service
Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

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2. I met with a delegation from Omagh Business Forum on 20 November, led by Mr Bill Reilly, President of Omagh Chamber of Commerce. The Forum is a partnership comprising the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Omagh District Council, the District Partnership and the Traders Association. It is putting in place a multi-agency Task Force to implement 'Omagh 2010', which proposes the economic and infrastructure renaissance of Omagh.
3. The Forum had requested the meeting to seek Government assistance in the work of the Taskforce primarily by:
 - (i) appointing a Senior Official to the Task Force to show support from the top of Central Government.
 - (ii) providing high-level access to departments through this Government representative – the official would make the necessary Government contacts and help co-ordinate Government issues.
 - (iii) financial assistance of the order of £150K per year over the next three years which would help cover Task Force costs including administrative support, premises and promotion activity.
4. At the meeting the delegation pressed for a quick decision on Government involvement. They want to move in the coming days to set up the Taskforce.

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Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

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5. The Forum delegation made a strong case for Government to get involved to help implement the strategy, and much effort has clearly gone into its development. The Forum drew attention to the fact that the sort of partnership approach they were seeking was very much in line with the working together theme of the Programme for Government. **In my view there would be merit in helping the Forum to implement its strategy.**
6. An obvious consideration in deciding on our response to this request is the possibility that other towns would seek similar assistance with their own development plans. However, there are some strong reasons for providing support for the Omagh region, not least to help the town and the surrounding area move forward and assist the recovery from the effects of the August 1998 bomb – the Forum mentioned that since the atrocity there had been numerous bomb scares in the town which have contributed to an air of despair in the community.
7. One option, therefore, would be to consider an allocation to the Omagh Taskforce and perhaps to one or two other similar initiatives in other areas as 'pilots' for local development and community renewal, using the Executive Programme Funds. These pilots would seek to adopt a modern joined up government approach at local community level working in partnership with the local bodies in line with Programme for Government themes.

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Recommendation

8. I invite the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to agree that:

- central Government should agree in principle to play a part in implementing 'Omagh 2010'.
- a Civil Servant should be appointed to the Task Force.
- the financial support should be considered at the time of decisions on the first round of EPF allocations, perhaps as part of several pilots to aid community renewal in areas facing particular difficulties.

9. If Ministers are content to agree to the recommendations at para 7 we will develop the detail. In the meantime, Omagh interests could be advised of your decisions in relation to para 7.

GERRY LOUGHRAN

Head of the Civil Service
Head of the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Secretary to the Executive

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