

P02

TX/RX NO. 1235

16/10 00 16:03

**INSIGHT**

Friday 13 October 2000

Sir Reg Empey MLA  
Minister  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Netherleigh House  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP

Dear Sir Reg,

**POLICY PROPOSAL FOR A NORTHERN IRELAND FLAG**

Insight is a management consultancy that works with pure concepts containing virtuous intentions.

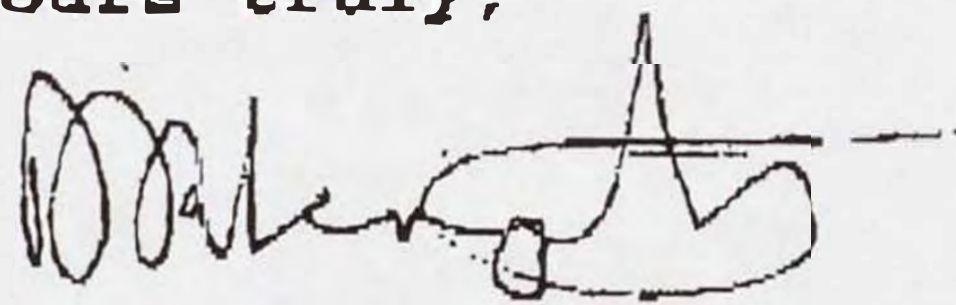
Without a flag for Northern Ireland the executive, assembly and population have a psychological blind spot which can affect the identity of people in Northern Ireland.

It is suggested that the ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive determine a requirement for a flag, and then consult with the Assembly about its implementation and use, before a design is voted upon.

Insight will be ready and willing to offer further suggestions about this policy proposal for a flag at your convenience.

Thankyou for your consideration and cooperation.

Yours truly,



Antony Langstone  
General Consultant



\* This letter has been sent to all Northern Ireland Executive Ministers, the Deputy First Minister and the First Minister.

Insight's business concentrates on moral actions and ethical mentalities.

Phone/Fax: 020 8445 5443  
42 Ridgeway • Whetstone • London N20 0HJ



cc Secretary ✓  
 Mr Peadar  
 Mr Budge  
 Mr McAtear.

**DESK IMMEDIATE**

**FROM: SEAMUS MALLON  
 DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

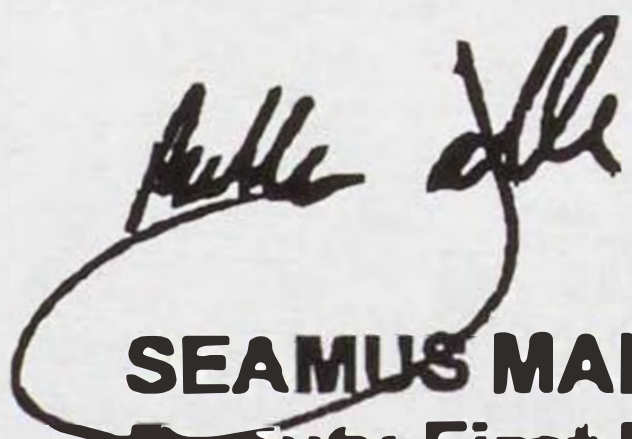
**DATE: 23 December 1999**

cc First Minister  
 Mr Semple  
 Mr McCusker  
 Mr Lavery  
 Mr May  
 Mr Campbell  
 Dr Gudgin  
 Mr Larkin  
 Mr Logue  
 Mr Barrington

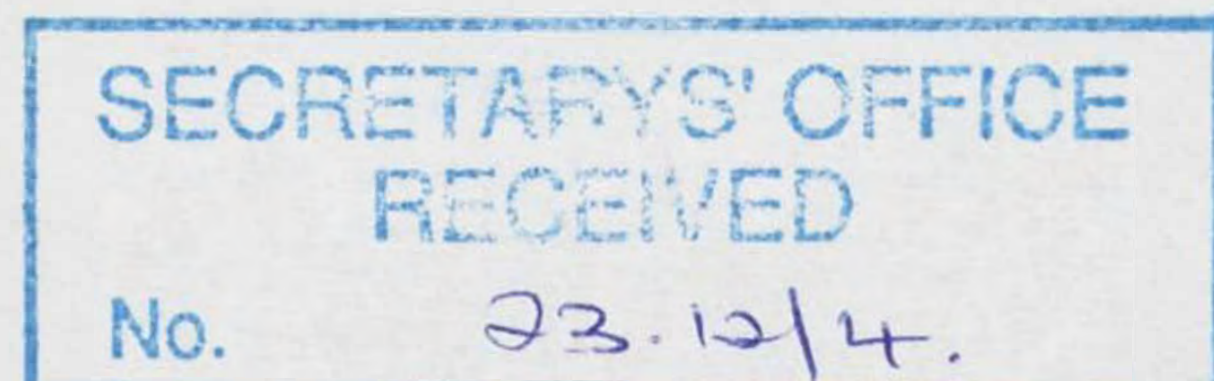
**Mr McGuinness  
 Minister for Education - Urgent by fax**

**FLYING OF THE UNION FLAG ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

1. Your minute of 17 December raised the question of the flying of the Union flag on Government buildings over the Christmas holidays, and specifically asked that I direct that no flags be flown over the Christmas period and until the Executive could properly address the issue.
2. Neither I nor the First Minister have the power to do as you request. Until devolution the flying of the Union flag was done on specified days by direction of the Secretary of State. As you acknowledge, the Executive Committee has yet to consider the matter and, therefore, any direction to vary the arrangements current at devolution would have to come from individual Ministers.
3. The matter will be raised with the Executive Committee early in the New Year.

  
**SEAMUS MALLON**  
 Deputy First Minister

[Approved by the Minister  
 and signed in his absence]







## CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

Block B, Castle Buildings, Belfast BT4 3SG

Tel: 01232 520700 Fax: 01232 528125

Direct Line: 528191

CAU 31/98

7 December 1998

Dear Sir/Madam

### FLYING OF THE UNION FLAG 1999

I enclose a list of the days in 1999 on which flags shall be flown on Government Buildings.

I would take this opportunity to remind you that the Union flag should fly on all Government Buildings on Europe Day ie 9 May. Buildings with one flagpole should fly the **Union** flag but those buildings with two flagpoles should arrange to fly the Union flag **and** the European flag. On the buildings with two flagpoles, please ensure that the Union flag is given precedence ie the Union flag should fly on the left flagpole and the European flag on the right as you face the building. If you have any queries regarding this instruction please contact me.

No further notification will be issued other than in respect of special, unlisted occasions when flags will be flown at either full or half-mast, by direction of Her Majesty The Queen.

Please ensure that where it is possible to do so that the Union flag is flown from all Government Buildings on the prescribed dates.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter by completing the reply slip below.

Yours faithfully

RUTH E WHYTE



**DAYS IN 1999 FOR HOISTING FLAGS  
ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
FROM 8.00 AM UNTIL SUNSET**

1 January	New Year's Day
6 February	Her Majesty's Accession
19 February	Birthday of The Duke of York
8 March	*Commonwealth Day
10 March	Birthday of The Prince Edward
17 March	St Patrick's Day
4 April	Easter Sunday
21 April	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen
9 May	°Europe Day
2 June	Coronation Day
10 June	Birthday of The Duke of Edinburgh
12 June	#The Queen's Official Birthday
12 July	Battle of the Boyne Anniversary
4 August	Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
15 August	Birthday of the Princess Royal
21 August	Birthday of The Princess Margaret
14 November	**Remembrance Day
14 November	Birthday of The Prince of Wales
20 November	Anniversary of Her Majesty's Wedding
25 December	Christmas Day

**Also:** # The day appointed for the official celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday

\* Commonwealth Day is the second Monday in March

\*\* Remembrance Sunday is the second Sunday in November. Flags should be flown right up all day

° Those buildings with two flagpoles should arrange to fly the Union flag **and the European flag**