

(19)

North Belfast
CLTV

Mary Bunting

17/01/02 20:45

To: Wesley Shannon/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Bill
Smith/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

cc: Ps Ministers/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Anne
Rainey/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Aidan
Cassidy/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, David
McNarry/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Brian
Barrington/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, David
Campbell/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Hugh
Logue/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Damian McAteer/CSG/DFP@DFP,
Will Haire/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Alison
Dean/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Gerry
Loughran/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Bernie
Rooney/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Derek
Wheeler/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Chris
Stewart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

cc: Ps Ministers/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Anne
Rainey/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Aidan
Cassidy/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, David
McNarry/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Brian
Barrington/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, David
Campbell/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Hugh
Logue/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Damian McAteer/CSG/DFP@DFP,
Will Haire/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Alison
Dean/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Gerry
Loughran/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Bernie
Rooney/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Derek
Wheeler/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Chris
Stewart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: Letter from Jane Kennedy re CCTV

I attach further briefing on this.

Mary



North Belfast note to Ministers 17.01



Jane Kennedy letter - background.c

FROM: Mary Bunting
17 January 2002

TO: Wesley Shannon
Bill Smith

cc PS/First Minister
PS/Mr Loughran
Will Haire
Derek Wheeler
OFMDFM Advisors

Letter from Jane Kennedy re CCTV

1. I have prepared a note setting out the background to this matter (forwarded as a separate document). The references to the NIO have been cleared by the NIO.
2. I have received a map showing the proposed locations from NIO and I will hand deliver this to private offices before I go home. This has been provided by the police.
3. I have not yet received input from DHSSPS and DRD.
4. On the issue of consultation on policing needs, the NIO has advised me that the police consulted with both sides of the community in the context of drawing up their policing response. The police are content to say that they had very constructive meetings with Alban Maginnis and Father Troy. However, they would not wish to relay the details of those discussions as they consider them to be private. That said, they did discuss CCTV with both and the response was positive. Gerry Kelly refused to have any discussion with them.
5. On the issue of threats by paramilitaries. ACC McQuillan has advised that

"in terms of the threat from the RHD to all Roman Catholic communication workers, it is our view that this was part of a false claim of responsibility by an organisation that, in effect, no longer exists. We do not believe that this threat is genuine and that view is strengthened by the fact that the UFF caller, who gave further information on the murder, described it as 'rubbish'." He has further stated that

"Of course, given that this is an anonymous threat from an unknown source, it is impossible for us to give an absolute guarantee. Indeed, we recognise the intense concern and fear that this and other threat messages this week have engendered in the wider community and especially among teachers, school staff and postal workers. Because of this, we have carried out extensive operations across North Belfast to try to protect and reassure the community and deter any possibility of attacks."

6. Until I have received input from DHSSPS and DRD, I am unable to complete my advice to Ministers on this matter. I will follow up again with these two departments in the morning.

Recommendation

7. At this stage, it seems to me that since both Ministers have already given a positive response verbally to Minister Kennedy in their telephone conversations with her last week and since the police is recommending this as a helpful security measure to both communities, Ministers may wish to respond positively in their reply to this letter
8. Both Derek Wheeler and I are of the view that if this measure is not implemented, particularly since it was been heavily reported in the media as part of the 'package' last November and since it was reported in the press last week that the Minister was minded to introduce the measure, there will be a very negative response from the Glenbryn community which could lead to a resumption of the protest.
9. While the measure is likely to be very negatively received by a large section of the Ardoyne community, the advantages to that community in terms of a 'watchful eye' on the route to Holy Cross School can be explained.
10. Ministers may therefore wish to raise issues concerning location (once depending on the response from the other Departments) and how this matter is communicated to both communities in their response. As I have advised earlier in the week, sensitive handling of all proposed measures will be very important at this time.
11. I am happy to discuss this further with Ministers tomorrow when the outstanding information has been received. I understand that Minister Kennedy may have been pressing private offices for a response. I have advised the NIO of the position and that we hope to be in a position to respond tomorrow.

Mary Bunting

MARY BUNTING

LETTER FROM SECURITY MINISTER JANE KENNEDY OF 15 JANUARY

BACKGROUND

1. Security/safety has been a central issue throughout the Holy Cross School protest and indeed across North Belfast as a whole since before the summer 2001.
2. During the summer, a number of approaches were made to NIO Ministers by politicians from both communities seeking a security response to the heightened tension and violence.
3. From the early days of the Holy Cross protest, Glenbryn Residents identified security/safety for their community as the key issue which had led them to begin the protest. They claimed that members of their community were being harassed at Ardoyne Shops and that there had been repeated attacks on homes and that nothing was being done to deal with this. Representatives of the residents and elected representatives in that constituency urged Minister Jane Kennedy to erect a security gate, which would be open during the day, at the Alliance Avenue/Ardoyne Road interface. In addition to security, the Glenbryn community was seeking action on the underlying socio-economic problems.
4. The Board of Governors of Holy Cross School, Ardoyne community interests and their elected representatives also raised concerns about security/safety of that community but were opposed to a security gate. They believed that this would isolate the school in a loyalist area and that a gate would become a focus for conflict. They demanded a strengthened Glenbryn/Alliance Avenue Peace Wall and protection for houses at the interface.

5. On 10 October, Minister Kennedy announced additional security measures. She stated that she had considered carefully with the police, requests for improved security measures. She had decided that a permanent gate at Ardoyne Road would not be installed but there would be an early start to the construction of the Glenbryn/ Alliance Avenue security fence.
6. While the announcement on a security fence was well received by both communities the decision on the gate was received very negatively by the Glenbryn residents and representations were made to Minister Kennedy by representatives of that community including elected representatives. The protest continued. The Glenbryn Residents sought a comprehensive package of measures including security, which would address all their concerns.
7. All of the schools in the area were closed during the week commencing 29 October. During this week, following a meeting of the Loyalist Commission, a delegation from the Commission led by including David Trimble MP, MLA, Fred Cobain MLA, David McNarry and church and community representatives met with Minister Jane Kennedy. This delegation urged the minister to address the security concerns of the Glenbryn Residents and, in particular, to re-consider her decision regarding the provision of a security gate. In the course of the discussion the Minister indicated that she had not received a recommendation for a security gate from the police. However, in response to the representations made by those present, She agreed to raise the matter with the Chief Constable to reconfirm the position, which she did on 7 November 2001.
8. On Friday 9 November, Minister Kennedy advised interested parties that she had asked the Chief Constable to make an assessment of the security situation and to consult both communities. The Minister explained that

she herself remained unconvinced - she had seen no evidence since her original decision that would make her change her mind that this would be a helpful security measure.

9. Meanwhile, the police were meeting with local representatives from both communities and had given an indication that they would be prepared to enhance policing arrangements by providing extra patrols: a 24 hour/16 hour static police presence at this interface; and a dedicated community policing unit. At a meeting with the Glenbryn Residents at Parliament Buildings, chaired by Nigel Dodds, the police confirmed they would deliver this level of policing which would serve the needs of both communities. The police also advised of this response to the security situation in the area at meetings with nationalist community leaders. This was formally announced to both communities by way of letter from the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

10. In late October/early November, Derek Wheeler and I were concerned that although there had been a great deal of discussion about a possible "package" both within the local communities and at the Interdepartmental Group, nothing had appeared in writing. We believed that something on paper would help to move the discussion on and focus the minds of those concerned - particularly the Glenbryn residents who appeared at that stage to be going in many different directions. We drafted an "Agenda for discussion with North Belfast MLAs" and a "Paper for information of Glenbryn/Ardoyne Community Interests" (see my brief to Ministers of 11 December) and discussed these with the relevant parties. It was at that stage that proposals for what subsequently became the North Belfast Community Action Project and environmental change (involving possible road realignment) at the interface were put to both communities.

- 11 Subsequently, a variety of proposed 'packages' began to emerge mainly from Glenbryn residents. CCTV cameras featured as one of a range of proposed policing/security measures on all of these lists apart from that received from Fred Cobain MLA.
- 12 The Interdepartmental Group discussed the full range of proposed measures at its meetings and was advised by the NIO that the full range of security/policing measures would be taken into consideration by the Chief Constable in the context of the assessment which he had agreed to carry out for Minister Kennedy. On 28 November, Ministers were advised (see my minute to Ministers of that date) that the Chief Constable's report was imminent and that the NIO had agreed to brief us before any announcement was made.
- 13 In November, Ministers wrote separately to Minister Kennedy concerning the security gate issue. On 18 December, Minister Kennedy wrote to Ministers indicating that she had already indicated that she would offer a view on the appropriate security measures to be put in place once she had considered the Chief Constable's report on the matter. She suggested that it would be useful to meet Ministers before she came to a final view. The correspondence case relating to this was not referred to this office until 28 December and in early January, when I returned from leave, I asked Derek Wheeler to prepare an update on the implementation of measures which fell to the devolved administration and the NIO to provide an outline of the issues which Minister Kennedy was likely to raise to enable me to brief Ministers in advance of such a meeting.
- 14 Unfortunately, the situation changed with the outbreak of rioting in the middle of last week. The NIO came under increasing pressure to act – with lack of progress on CCTV cameras being cited by the media as a delay in the implementation of the 'package' included in the letter from

Ministers to interested parties which preceded the suspension of the protest. It is important to note that there is no reference to CCTV cameras in the Ministers' letter. However a number of media reports at that time and following suspension of the protest referred to CCTV as being part of the 'package'. The objective of Ministers was to secure an end of the protest. Therefore, the NIO press office did not try to counter this story, believing to do so could jeopardise that objective.

- 15 Last week, Minister Kennedy returned from the House of Commons to deal with the upsurge of violence. She had a number of meetings with elected representatives and community leaders. She started with a meeting with Father Troy and Rev. Norman Hamilton. She was door-stepped by the press on leaving and was asked about her response to the security situation. Replying to a question regarding CCTV she gave a general statement indicating she was considering what further things could be done. She added that she was on her way to a meeting with ACC McQuillan.
- 16 At that meeting ACC McQuillan supported the early installation of CCTV. Later that day, Jane Kennedy had separate meetings with Billy Hutchinson MLA and Nigel Dodds MP, MLA. Dodds mentioned CCTV, adding that he hoped she would see her way to providing this security measure. The Minister again said she hoped to make her decision known shortly and referred to her commitment to advise FM/DFM of her decision first
- 17 After this round of meetings the Minister took the decision to proceed and, consequently, telephoned the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister on Thursday evening to inform them and to invite their support, which they gave. She also pointed out that the long term intention was to install a permanent CCTV system but that, in the interim, she had asked the Chief Constable to proceed with a temporary system. The site for the temporary

camera would be in the Everton Complex car park, property belonging to the devolved administration. She mentioned that she hoped they could facilitate this. I understand that both Ministers replied positively to the decision on CCTV.

18 I became aware of Minister Kennedy's telephone calls to the First and Deputy First Ministers when I sought information about the developing situation from the NIO on Thursday night. Neither the decision to proceed with CCTV nor the Ministerial telephone calls that occurred had been discussed at official level before they occurred.

19 Last Friday, the First Minister wrote to Minister de Brun indicating that he hoped that her Department would facilitate the CCTV proposal. Minister de Brun subsequently wrote to Minister Kennedy copied to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister indicating that she could not agree to the proposal on the grounds that the installation of security equipment would threaten the "carefully nurtured neutrality of health and social services facilities". Minister Durkan has indicated in his note to Bill Smith of 12 January that while he had indicated in his brief conversation with Minister Kennedy that he had no objection in principle to CCTV and considered that it could make a helpful contribution to the situation in North Belfast, he had referred to a number of 'reception and perception' issues. In particular, he has raised the location as a possible issue and the need for 'no surprises' and that the proposed package should be conveyed to all parties at the same time. While elected representatives, were briefed directly on the proposal by the Minister last week, there have been no other direct briefings. However, events moved rapidly once again and in a door step interview with UTV on Friday morning Jane Kennedy stated that CCTV would be installed in that area.

20 Minister Kennedy, having consulted the police over last weekend, has now identified three possible locations for a temporary CCTV camera – one in the Everton Complex carpark, one in the entrance to the Everton Complex carpark and one on a lamppost at the Ardoyne Road/Alliance Avenue intersection. A map showing the precise locations has been received (this will be hand delivered to private offices). The Minister has sought an urgent response. I understand that she is keen to move on this before the end of the week. I have advised NIO that we are still waiting for input from DHSSPS and DRD and that we hope to be in a position to respond tomorrow.

Mary Bunting

17.01.2002

① E'ton
 car
 park
 entrance
 10
 E'ton
 road
 sheet
 lamp



Proposed
 locations
 for
 CCTV
 camera