

DA/19/2

FROM: DOROTHY ANGUS  
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cc Mr McCusker

PS/MR LOUGHRAN

## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2002

1. I attach a proposed paper to PSG to consider the handling within the devolved administration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2002.
2. Mr McCusker and I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this with you.

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## Ministerial Committee

The Ministerial Committee has met only once in April 2000. The Scottish Office, Wales Office and Scottish Executive were represented on the Committee. The Northern Ireland Office is not represented and since the first meeting on devolution, it was considered inappropriate to seek representation from the Minister/Deputy First Minister. A further meeting is expected and representation



## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2002 - PAPER TO PSG

### Purpose of Paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to take the views of Permanent Secretaries on the handling within the devolved administration of the celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

### Background

2. The Golden Jubilee falls on 6 February 2002 although most of the celebrations will take place during the summer months next year. Buckingham Palace is taking the lead in the Queen's programme with the Government support handled by 3 Committees - a Ministerial Committee chaired by the Home Secretary, an Official Committee (of which there is a sub committee) and a London Celebrations Committee. NIO and OFMDFM have membership of the Official Committee and its sub committee which report to the Ministerial Committee. The Home Office Golden Jubilee Unit in the Home Office is co-ordinating activities.
3. Service is a central theme of the celebrations with the Queen thanking the nation for their support as well as celebrating her contribution over 50 years. There will be an emphasis on looking forward as well as back and it is intended that the celebrations will be less formal than for the Silver Jubilee. Furthermore, it is the express wish of Her Majesty that there should be no undue cost. Thus there is no central funding and costs will be borne by departments within the existing expenditure ceilings.

### Ministerial Committee

4. The Ministerial Committee has met only once in April 2000. The Scotland Office, Wales Office and Scottish Executive were represented on the Committee. The Northern Ireland Office is not represented and since the first meeting occurred prior to devolution, it was considered inappropriate to seek representation from the First Minister/Deputy First Minister. A further meeting is expected and representation from



Northern Ireland may need to be revisited. The issue has been brought to the attention of NIO.

### **Arrangements in Northern Ireland**

5. The NIO Visits Section is handling the national celebrations in Northern Ireland such as a royal visit. As regards other celebrations, there is a desire to avoid the appearance of over control at central level with local people across the UK being left to organise events as they wish with community involvement seen as a key indicator of success. Nevertheless, the Golden Jubilee Unit is interested to know what activities are likely to take place throughout the UK including in the jurisdictions of the devolved administrations. That suggests that there is a need for some stimulus from government departments and some degree of co-ordination. The database of proposals so far is attached at Annex A. Scotland and Wales have been equally slow as Northern Ireland in bringing forward proposals.
6. Much of the proposed activity is centered in schools to promote the theme of citizenship which will be introduced into the National Curriculum from autumn 2002. DfEE have formed an internal working group to draw together a range of activities, provide information and raise awareness with children in schools. The DfEE initiatives have been brought to the attention of Department of Education.
7. The Department of Culture Media and Sport are also active in organising events especially related to the Commonwealth Games which the Queen will open in Manchester in July and Arts activities etc. DCMS have suggested to the Arts Council that they might give particular attention to ideas related to the Jubilee or the Commonwealth Games. There are proposals for a Spirit of Friendship Arts Festival linked to the Commonwealth Games. The Jubilee Unit are interested in events which are taking place in any case in 2002 and which could be given a Jubilee badge.
8. DE have been encouraged by OFMDFM to keep in touch with the DfEE activities, but there is, of course, some difficulty in the devolved environment with the Department of Education taking the initiative in this area. Nevertheless, there will be some sections of the population which will expect to see some recognition of the Jubilee especially if they are aware of activities in other parts of the UK. The same is true of other sectors



especially Arts. This raises the issue of handling and the extent to which Ministers and departments should become involved.

### **Possible Way Forward**

9. Ministers will need to be consulted on their views on handling the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. In doing so a possible way forward might be to suggest that a department take the lead in forming a committee to encourage and co-ordinate local events which could be given the Jubilee badge. The committee could be comprised of members outside the department. The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure might be well placed to take the lead in this area since outside the education system most events are likely to fall in the sporting or arts environments.

### **Other Issues**

#### Bank Holiday

10. There will be an extra bank holiday on Monday 3 June with the Spring Bank Holiday being moved from 27 May to 4 June to give a long weekend. A national service of thanksgiving will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 4 June. The additional bank holiday was announced by way of a PQ on 23 November 2000 but there was no parallel announcement in the Assembly. Bank holidays are not prescriptive in that there is no statutory right to take time off. Employers are free to make alternative arrangements. Similarly, it is a matter for school governors to decide on the specific days taken as school holidays. DE were made aware at an early stage of the bank holiday and there was an announcement of the extra school holiday on 19 February. In addition there is a need to let employers and the general public know at a local level about the extra bank holiday. [insert mechanism for this]

#### Deregulation

11. The Official Committee is looking at the possibility of deregulating the liquor licensing laws during the Jubilee celebrations. The relevant papers have been passed to DHSSPS to consider the need for any action in this area.



### Jubilee Medal

12. There is a proposal for a Jubilee Medal for community service to be given to groups and organisations rather than individuals. OFMDFM and NIO are keeping in touch with developments.

### **Conclusion**

13. PSG is asked to:
  - (i) agree that a recommendation should be put Ministers for a committee to co-ordinate local Golden Jubilee events;
  - (ii) decide whether such a committee should be under the chairmanship of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure; and
  - (iii) note the other issues arising from the Golden Jubilee celebrations.