

APPENDIX A



Northern
Ireland
Office

Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3TT
Telephone 028 9037 8176
Facsimile 028 9037 8180
www.nio.gov.uk

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Eileen Bell MLA
The Speaker
Parliament Buildings
Belfast

13 October 2006

As you will be aware, the two Governments published on Friday an Agreement paving the way for full restoration of the Assembly by 26 March. That Agreement includes a number of annexes, including one on changes to the institutions, which takes account of discussions over the summer in the Preparation for Government Committee (PFG).

A number of the parties have indicated that they wish to discuss the changes to institutions annex in the PFG. I am happy to facilitate this and to receive any representations by the 31 October. I am minded to accept that in the event of votes occurring in the PFG, that these will be taken reflecting the respective strengths of the parties in the Assembly. The Government would consider the voting outcome in reaching its conclusions on issues raised.

I am, therefore, directing under paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 2006 that the PFG meets on Tuesday 17 October at a time to be fixed with further meetings to be arranged as agreed by the Committee.

RT HON PETER HAIN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND