



Northern Ireland Office

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Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Mr Chris Sidoti
Chair
Bill of Rights Forum
Interpoint Centre
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31 August 2007

Ben Chis

Thank you for your letter of 3 August.

I have considered carefully the case you make for the Bill of Rights Forum to undertake a structured outreach programme. I am encouraged that your proposals have the endorsement of the entire Forum and by the way in which you have sought to identify priority target groups for this programme. I am therefore ready to agree that the resources of up to £100,000 should be provided for the Forum to undertake this specific exercise. It is an important programme that has the potential to constructively engage the people of Northern Ireland effectively in the Bill of Rights process.

I am sure that you will appreciate that it will be important for my officials to discuss the programme in more detail with you and the Forum secretariat in order to ensure that the outreach programme and the engagement of the proposed support workers complies with Government accounting requirements and the terms of the Forum Management Statement and Financial memorandum. This will of course need to be done in a way which fully respects the Forum's independence.





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I wish you and the members of the Forum every success with your ongoing important work.

Tom J. Neely

Shaun Woodward

THE RT HON SHAUN WOODWARD MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

