

244 253



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STORMONT, BELFAST BT4 3SS

David Dunseith Esq.
Talkback
BBC
Broadcasting House
Ormeau Avenue
BELFAST BT2 8HQ

28 May 1992

Dear David

I understand the subject of election posters arose on your programme yesterday.

As you are aware, election posters are required to be removed within 14 days after the election to which they relate - in this case that would be 23 April.

When they are not removed, the DOE Planning Service reminds the relevant political party of their legal requirement.

The Planning Service has checked the current position. There are a few posters remaining but most of them have been removed. However, it is obviously not practicable to check every road in the Province.

If a member of the public wishes to inform the DOE of any remaining posters, he or she should contact either Mr. Frizzell at Planning Services Headquarters, tel: Belfast 321212 ext 237 or their local Divisional Planning Office - (telephone numbers in telephone book) so that appropriate action can be taken to have them removed. *

It would be helpful if you would convey this information to the public through your programme.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

BRIAN W PARKER
Principal Information Officer

(Re DOE has a name!) *
(Sam Frizzell)



RECYCLED PAPER

cc Mr Parker

Mr F Kane (or Deputy)
Planning Service HQ
COMMONWEALTH HOUSE

ELECTION POSTERS

This subject, as you know, is a hardy annual at election times. In the weeks immediately prior to the general election, the Information Office received numerous calls from the media requesting us to outline the legal position on the erection and removal of posters. I am aware that you co-operated with us by doing at least one radio interview on BBC.

Since 23 April (14 days after election) when all posters were supposed to have been removed, we have received a number of calls asking why in certain areas, these posters remain with no apparent action being taken by the Department to remove them. I have found that I have had to chase round the Departmental system trying to get some satisfaction on the matter, but to no effect as it would appear that no prosecutions have ever been brought by the Department.

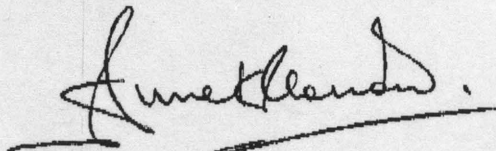
Today, the BBC Radio Ulster "Newsbreak" carried an extensive piece on the subject which included an interview with a lady who allegedly spent several hours being pushed from one DOE office to another, the length and breadth of the Province.

Brian Parker, Principal Information Officer, heard the piece and was incensed as he listened to our Department being described as confused and incompetent.

This is hardly in line with the spirit of the Citizen's Charter, the provision of customer care and our earnest endeavours to improve the DOE image.

Mr Parker has requested that a Departmental response be prepared which we will pass to Newsbreak for inclusion in to-morrow's programme.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.



ANNE K MORROW
DOE Information Office

27 May 1992

END