



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 October 1983

Dear Lord,

You reminded me that during the passage of the European Assembly Elections Bill in 1980 you had pressed for the 1984 European Parliament elections to be held on the same basis throughout the United Kingdom.

Jim Molyneux followed up the debate with a letter to Willie Whitelaw (then Home Secretary) and in his reply Willie Whitelaw said:

"If it becomes clear by early 1983 that new arrangements will not be in effect throughout the Community for the 1984 elections, the Government will have to reconsider the arrangements established by the European Assembly Elections Act 1978."

Jim Molyneux reminded Willie of this commitment in April this year but our review of the arrangements for European Parliament elections in Northern Ireland was then overtaken by the General Election.

We have now looked at this very carefully and have decided that the single transferable vote system should be retained for the 1984 European Parliament elections in Northern Ireland. Leon Brittan told Jim Molyneux of this decision in early August.

The Rt. Hon. Enoch Powell, M.B.E., M.P.

Yours sincerely
Enoch Powell