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From THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

A Turnbull Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

1st October 1984

Dear Andrew,

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Secretary of State is aware that the Prime Minister is interested in the level of financial support which Northern Ireland receives from the rest of the United Kingdom and has asked me to write to you about it.

Support in 1983-84 amounted to some £1,306m. This excludes the extra cost of the Army's task in Northern Ireland which amounted to a further £141m. The total of £1,447m is equivalent to 38% of the total Northern Ireland Public Expenditure Block (including Law and Order services).

The actual level of support has been the subject of some local political controversy in Northern Ireland. Many Unionists are quick to point out that other parts of the United Kingdom also receive support. It is Northern Ireland's unique accounting arrangements which makes it possible to identify the level of subvention to the Province in a way which is not possible for other regions.

A copy of this letter goes for information to John Gieve at the Chief Secretary's Office.

*Yours Sincerely
Neil Ward.*

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1 OCT 1984

