

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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Dear Charles

GR PL (T) attached
as a message

with cover
sheet

**FAIR EMPLOYMENT (NI) ACT 1989 - CODE OF PRACTICE
REQUEST FOR PRIME MINISTERIAL ENDORSEMENT**

"Content to sign?"

When the Fair Employment (NI) Act 1989 comes into operation on 1 January 1990 the Department of Economic Development in Northern Ireland will be publishing a Code of Practice to assist employers and others to comply with the Act and to adopt procedures and practices which will promote equality of opportunity and eliminate all forms of religious discrimination in employment.

In the past the Prime Minister has kindly and helpfully endorsed three other publications relating to fair employment in Northern Ireland: namely (i) the Guide to Effective Practice (September 1987); (ii) a brochure setting out the key details of the Fair Employment Bill (December 1988); and (iii) a brochure on the Act as passed by Parliament (August 1989). My Secretary of State believes that it would add considerably to the Code of Practice and would complete the process of implementing the new arrangements on fair employment if it too had an endorsement from the Prime Minister and he would be most grateful if she would be prepared to give her agreement to this.

I attach a suggested draft endorsement for the Prime Minister's consideration. If this is approved by the Prime Minister, I should be grateful if you would arrange for a signed original to be forwarded to me please.

Yours sincerely
Maurice Patterson

M PATTERSON

SCAN N6D

a: CODE

DRAFT

PRIME MINISTERIAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE

With the enactment of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989 the Government has fulfilled its commitment to introduce radical and incisive new legislation to promote equality of opportunity in employment in the Province. The important task is to ensure that the legislation is effective in practice. This Code of Practice has been prepared to complement the Act and its recommendations are designed to give its provisions maximum effect. I urge all concerned with fair employment in Northern Ireland to study it carefully and to follow its guidance in practice.



MARGARET THATCHER

