



Northern Ireland Office
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cap

The Rt Hon David Waddington QC MP
Home Secretary
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

9 April 1990

NBem
ARC6
10/4

Dear David

Thank you for copying to me your minute of ^{*Aap*} 12 April to the Prime Minister.

The proposed amendment to the Broadcasting Bill seems likely to provide a much broader and diverse range of programmes on the three commercial radio channels without the need for intrusive regulation. This greater variety will, I imagine, be welcomed by most people in Northern Ireland as elsewhere in the United Kingdom and I fully support the proposed amendment.

My only concern is that the statutory provision you envisage - that one of the stations must be substantially speech-based and another must include a substantial proportion of music other than popular music - may prove either uncertain or unhelpfully rigid. There may be a case for putting these specifications in subordinate legislation, and this may in any case be your intention.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of MISC 128, Kenneth Baker, Malcolm Rifkind, Peter Walker and to Sir Robin Butler.

Leven
PM

PB

BROADCASTING: POLYMER PTH

