



NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICE

6 November 2002

SECRETARY OF STATE SAYS REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP, today said that the work of the Review of Public Administration would continue.

Mr Murphy said that he recognised the importance of the review and acknowledged that decisions on its outcome would be a matter for a devolved government.

Commenting on the progress made by the Review team to date, Mr Murphy said: **“I do not want to lose the momentum and interest which has been built up since the review was launched in June this year. The Review team has already carried out a significant amount of work and I am aware that they have received widespread support for their work.**

“I have, therefore, asked the Review team to continue with its work and research and to continue its current consultations as appropriate. This will ensure that the necessary preparatory work is carried out, so that when devolution is restored, the Executive will be able to progress the Review.

“I would want to consult with the political parties early in the New Year before deciding on the next phase of the Review.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Review of Public Administration was launched following an Assembly debate on 24 June 2002.
2. The Review Team has recently completed an extensive round of pre-consultation meetings with key stakeholders, including meetings with all 26 councils, health boards, education boards and numerous other public bodies. More than 60

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meetings were held and over 1000 people attended.

3. Further information about the review can be found at www.rpani.gov.uk.