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Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

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29<sup>th</sup> July 2004  
Adam Higgitt

Dear Mr Corey

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE PAY**

I was glad of the opportunity to meet you and your colleagues last Friday and to listen to your concerns about Northern Ireland Civil Service pay and the current dispute.

As you know, I am concerned to see an early resolution of the dispute and last week's meeting gave us a valuable opportunity to exchange views.

I explained the Government's approach to pay in the public sector and our concern to ensure that we managed pay growth carefully. This means that a settlement of this dispute must be found within the parameters of public sector pay policy and the remit we have agreed with the Treasury.



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Further, we believe that the 2003 pay deal was fair and reasonable, and consistent with Government Pay Policy.

I hope that you will be able to reopen negotiations with Management Side very soon with a view to seeking an early resolution of this dispute within the parameters I have explained above.

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Murray', written over a large, stylized flourish.

**RT HON PAUL MURPHY**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**  
*(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)*