14th March 2001

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your draft letter, faxed to me earlier today. Can I suggest that you use, instead, the following:

The Secretary of State has been informed by the Attorney General that, following consideration by the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, a direction to prosecute you summarily for an offence contrary to paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 5 to the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991, and which was issued on 27th January 1994, has been withdrawn.

On the basis of information currently available, there is no outstanding direction for prosecution in Northern Ireland, there are no warrants in existence nor are you wanted in Northern Ireland for arrest, questioning or charge by the police. The RUC are not aware of any interest in you from any other police force in the United Kingdom. If any other outstanding offence or offences came to light, or if any request for extradition were to be received, these would have to be dealt with in the usual way.

It is essential that the Northern Ireland Office check the accuracy of the second paragraph: whilst the information was correct, to the best of our knowledge, in November 2000, circumstances may have changed. It would also seem sensible for the
RUC to be kept informed of any letter that does issue so that the opportunity for confusion to arise as to status is lessened.

The Attorney General is content for the letter to be sent, in these terms, by an official from the Northern Ireland Office.

Kevin McGinty