

Circular No. 218
17th July 2006
Ref Gen Sec

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on Future Operations in Ireland.

Upon taking office in March 2004, I initiated a review of the paid staff of the Association in the light of the Association's then recent past financial results. This review has resulted in quite substantial changes to the way that the Association operates in Great Britain but did not include a review of our Irish operations.

The current Irish Secretary, Mr. Roger Hannon, has now indicated his intention to retire from the service of the Association with effect from the end of July, and it is my view, and that of the Executive Committee, that the time is now opportune to conduct a review of our current and future operations in Ireland.

It is intended that a series of consultation meetings be held around Ireland in the near future to give an opportunity to our Irish members to participate in the decision making process with regard to our future operations in Ireland, bearing in mind our long history of involvement on the island but also recognising the financial realities facing the Association going forward.

A communication will be sent to individual members outlining details of the date, time and venue of their nearest meeting together with a consultation document outlining the issues that need to be considered. Mr. Dave Porter, immediate past President of the Association, has kindly agreed to facilitate these meetings on my behalf and I am grateful to him in that regard.

The results of the consultation exercise will be reported to the Executive Committee and decisions will be taken at that time in relation to the future.

The Association has been faced with some difficult decisions in the recent past in order to secure its independent future and whilst our Irish membership has largely been sheltered from those difficult decisions it is the case that

serious consideration needs to be given now as to how we take things forward.

It is important that as we consider the options for the future we have as many views as possible of our Irish membership and in this regard I would urge as many of you as possible to attend the meetings previously referred to and make sure that your opinions are known.

In the meantime Ms. Carla McCambridge, Negotiations Officer, will be redesignated as Acting Irish Secretary until such time as the consultation exercise is complete and decisions are taken as to our future operations in Ireland. She will be assisted by Mr. Wayne Geoghegan, Regional Organiser in our Leeds office, who will be seconded whilst the consultation exercise is conducted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Doherty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerry Doherty
General Secretary

Executive Committee, Irish Committee and Irish Branches