



10 DOWNING STREET
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www.gov.uk/number10

From the Principal Private Secretary

10 November 2016

Dear Christopher

It was a great pleasure to attend the Co-Operation Ireland reception and dinner on Tuesday and I am pleased to forward to you, as follows, the Prime Minister's message on that occasion.

"I am delighted to send my best wishes for a successful evening as you gather to celebrate both the work of Co-Operation Ireland and the strength of the relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland.

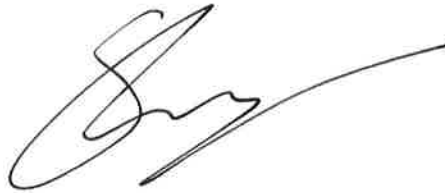
There is no doubt that relations between our two countries are at their best since Irish independence nearly a century ago. We are bound together by ties of history, family, business, trade, culture and identity. This year has also shown how sensitive anniversaries and events that once had the potential to divide us can be handled in ways that are inclusive, respectful and are designed to promote shared understanding. I am determined that as the United Kingdom forges a new role in the world the bonds that unite our two countries are both strengthened and deepened.

Co-operation Ireland has played a key role in fostering the relationship between the UK and Ireland as well as promoting reconciliation on the island of Ireland and building a stronger, shared society within Northern Ireland. You promote, manage and implement a whole range of imaginative programmes that bring together young people from all parts of the community with the aim of building a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Northern Ireland for everyone.

It is fitting that your event this evening is held in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. As everybody agrees Her Majesty's historic visit to Ireland in 2011 and the return visit by President Higgins in 2014 were ground breaking events. They helped to take UK-Irish relations to new levels and of course Co-Operation Ireland was involved in both of them.

I am really sorry that commitments elsewhere prevent me from attending this evening. I am sure it will be a huge success, and I send you every good wish for the future.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Case', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SIMON CASE

Dr Christopher Moran