

From: Timothy Johnston timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk
 Subject: FW: Private and strictly confidential
 Date: 15 December 2016 at 12:57
 To: Richard Bullick Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

From: Arlene Foster [arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk]
 Sent: 30 March 2016 16:37
 To: Timothy Johnston
 Subject: Fwd: Private and strictly confidential

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jonathan Bell <jonathanbell620@hotmail.com>
Date: 30 March 2016 at 16:17:27 BST
To: arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk, nigel.dodds.mp@parliament.uk,
maurice.morrow@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
Subject: Private and strictly confidential

Dear Arlene

I have set aside tomorrow and Friday as I have requested a meeting with yourself and Nigel Dodds and as yet have had no reply.

Jonathan Bell MLA

Private and strictly confidential for the attention of the DUP Leader Arlene Foster MLA, Deputy Leader Nigel Dodds MP and Party Chairman Lord Morrow.

Dear Arlene

You will know that I have been one of your biggest supporters and was one of the first to sign your nomination papers to become leader of the DUP. Nobody was happier than I was when you were elected. All of this has made it more difficult to understand and to come to terms with recent events.

It is no secret that I have been extremely hurt by the manner in which I have been treated which has made it very difficult for me to do my job.

I agreed with Timothy Johnston on 16 the March 2016 to outline the key issues which have disturbed me to serve as part of the agenda for when we meet - no doubt you will want to include other matters.

I have had serious concerns about the following matters;

Renewable Heat Initiative

- Without consultation with me your SPAD advised mine that the scheme was to be
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kept open

- at the same time the Head of the Civil Service was informing my Permanent Secretary by e mail that you wanted the scheme closed down
- my SPAD without my consent or knowledge instructed the Civil Service to remove all references to OFMdfM from the Departmental record of this issue.
- there has been a number of allegations of fraudulent activity with this scheme and I have been informed that an official has claimed that the scheme was kept open to accommodate a family member.

Launch of Corporation Tax in USA

- as corporation tax was a key strategy of the DETI department arrangements were underway for me to do this in the USA over the St Patrick's Day period
- Your SPAD apparently dismissed out of hand any role DETI would have in doing so and without any consultation with me stated I was not even to accompany you in doing this
- I have been left embarrassed within my department by my exclusion and being bypassed. Even outside the confines of DETI I have had the embarrassment of trying to explain on separate occasions to the US Consul General Daniel Lawton and to Drew O'Brien Global Partnership representative why I was not accepting invitations which they both stated they wanted me to accept.
- you never consulted me about any of this and I suspect you would not have treated any other Minister in this way.

Wrightbus

- regardless of how the invitations were sent, when, at the very last moment, I was invited to the event, I immediately as a courtesy to my Party Leader and Ministerial colleague contacted you through Timothy Johnston to ensure you also had your place at this significant event. I was deeply hurt and disappointed that you were already on your way to the event and had not thought to extend the same courtesy to me.
- I was shocked to find that a press release that I had cleared with my Press Officer which began with a paragraph from you, then Martin McGuinness and a final paragraph from myself as DETI Minister had been deliberately edited by your office in order to exclude all and every reference to me.

British Airways Incident

- you informed me, in front of my wife, on the evening of Tuesday 1st March that you had received a complaint regarding my behaviour which you were going to address me about
- you agreed to show me a copy of the complaint but didn't. I have been informed by British Airways and have received copies of all their correspondence - I can see no evidence that any complaint exists

EVIDENCE THAT ANY COMPLAINT EXISTS.

- on the basis of all the evidence I now have it is clear the issue was manufactured or embellished to target me

Personal Comments

- as you are aware things said in our circles seldom stay secret. Your comments about me have been reported within and even worse outside the DUP. Those comments fall well short of what one would expect to hear from a party colleague, let alone my Party Leader and the First Minister of Northern Ireland.

- I was outraged to learn from Timothy Johnston that you had instructed Ministerial colleagues not to speak to me at the penultimate meeting of the Northern Ireland Executive.

- this childish and vindictive behaviour says a lot about your attitude towards me.

Whilst I could have dismissed any one of these issues the combination and proximity of them can only lead to one conclusion, namely that I am being marginalised and ostracised. Matters directly involving my department are discussed, decisions taken and action followed without me being consulted or involved.

It is difficult to understand why you should adopt such a hostile attitude towards me when I have been both supportive of your leadership and have not misbehaved in a way that would embarrass the party.

At least I am comforted in the knowledge that you want to speak to me about what appears to be a bogus complaint

As a Ministerial colleague it is not my desire to damage the Party. I have neither the authority nor responsibility to investigate these claims. Arlene it is for you as DUP Party leader and First Minister to initiate.

I am trusting you as Party Leader to take whatever action is appropriate after you satisfy yourself about the truth of the claims

As your Ministerial colleague I am sure you will accept that I do not intend to release

As your ministerial colleague I am sure you will accept that I do not intend to release any of the details in this letter.

Yours Sincerely

Jonathan F Bell MLA
DETI Minister
Sent from my iPhone

From: Nigel Dodds Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
 Subject: Re: Private and strictly confidential
 Date: 26 March 2016 at 00:31
 To: Timothy Johnston timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk
 Cc: Arlene Foster arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk, Richard Bullick Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



You will have seen the exchanges between me and him all day.
 My final email closed down any reconsideration of the Strangford division and told him to write to POs if he wanted to make allegations.

His short reply was to say he had told the Chairman and therefore discharged his responsibility.

It's interesting that he now decides (after advice??) to pen this lengthy email. Is this his language??

He is on weak ground in not being able to provide corroboration for his allegations so we collectively stand up to him in a coordinated way.

Sent from my iPhone

On 26 Mar 2016, at 00:01, Timothy Johnston <timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk> wrote:

Reading this I think he is running out of road and is now feeling the pressure given the fact this is now the 7 or 8 email to you all today.

Having earlier said he wanted to meet he is now putting it in writing knowing he is running out of time. He will be unable to substantiate such claims. I now think he should have his bluff called by other officers and perhaps you meet [REDACTED] as part of a wider plan to deal with this once and for all.

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Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

----- Original message -----

From: Arlene Foster
 Date: 2016/03/25 23:06 (GMT+00:00)
 To: Timothy Johnston , Richard Bullick , Nigel Dodds
 Subject: Fwd: Private and strictly confidential

I am at the very end of my tether with this individual. He has now put in writing the very serious allegations he has been talking about for sometime. I think he should be asked to provide evidence forthwith. If i respond to this email I will say something that may not be conducive to a positive solution for the Party. He has failed to give any explanation for his atrocious behaviour: it's everyone else's fault. I think given he has made allegations against me that he should be taken to a sub committee of the officers, in fact I am asking that the officers, probably Gregory, Maurice and Nigel should meet him next week.

I am going to respond to him along the lines that he has made statements about me which bear no resemblance to the truth and apparently he is prepared to believe rumour and supposition rather than fact. The very first thing I expect from him is an apology given that he has wilfully ignored my leadership since 3rd March.

Arlene.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jonathan Bell <jonathanbell620@hotmail.com>
 Date: 25 March 2016 at 22:37:01 GMT
 To: arlene@arlenefoster.org.uk, nigel.dodds.mp@parliament.uk, maurice.morrow@mia.niassembly.gov.uk
 Subject: Private and strictly confidential

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[REDACTED]

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