

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT

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SECURITY POLICY

It may perhaps be more appropriate to describe this as Legal Affairs and Civil Liberties.

It is proposed that any new Assembly should have a Department of Justice to administer legal affairs in the Province.

It is envisaged that the Department would have transferred to it legislative and, where appropriate, administrative functions for:-

PRISONS - including all places of custodial detention such as Training Schools and Young Offenders Centres.

PROBATION SERVICE - administrative function to be carried out by a Board subordinate to the Assembly.

LEGAL AID - administrative functions to be carried out by a Board subordinate to the Assembly.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE - the operation and maintenance of the Courts of Justice in Northern Ireland and staffing at all levels including the appointment of Judges.

LEGAL PROFESSIONS - powers to regulate the education, training and supervision of the legal professions.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION - the establishment of LRC to carry out a function similar to the English/Welsh Body for N Irish Law.

CRIMINAL LAW - Criminal Law relating to those matters which are not Reserved would come within the scope of the authority of the proposed Department of Justice.

ELECTORAL LAW - Electoral Law relating to the N I Assembly and any Local Authority bodies established under it would come under the supervision of the Department of Justice. It is envisaged that any constitutional settlement would set out the electoral arrangement and system to be used and any

changes to this system would be by weighted majority of the Assembly.

POLICE COMPLAINTS - power to regulate the procedures for dealing with complaints against the Police.

CIVIL LIBERTIES - The European Convention on Human Rights to be adopted into the Domestic Law of Northern Ireland. It would be preferable to have this extended to the rest of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

RESERVED MATTERS - Police, emergency legislation, Police Authority.