



Minister of State

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*Dear Monica*

The Government announced in the Queen's Speech in May its intention to renew the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996 by means of a Bill to be introduced this Parliamentary Session. I can advise you that the Bill will be introduced in the Commons on Thursday of this week.

The Bill will have the effect of extending the life of the current Act by two years pending a wider review which the Government will be conducting into the future of counter-terrorism legislation. This review will take as its starting point Lord Lloyd's Report of last year; the Home Secretary will be making an announcement about the review in the near future.

The EP Bill will make the following changes: it will repeal the internment powers; it will make provision for police interviews with terrorist suspects to be audio recorded; and it will reduce the potential for cases to be dealt with by Diplock Courts by increasing the number of scheduled offences which it will be possible for the Attorney General to certify out of the Diplock system. Otherwise, the Bill will retain all the provisions of the existing Act.

If, over the next week or so, you would like to discuss anything in relation to the Bill, I shall be happy to see you. My Diary Secretary can be contacted on 01232 528130. I am extending a similar invitation to all Northern Ireland Party Leaders and Opposition Spokesmen.

*Yours truly  
Adam*

ADAM INGRAM JP MP  
MINISTER OF STATE