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Sir Oliver Napier  
Chairman  
Standing Advisory  
Commission on Human Rights  
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*Dear Oliver,*

I acknowledged receipt of the Standing Advisory Commission's Sixteenth Report on 28 May and undertook to send you a response. I now propose to publish the Report and lay it before Parliament on Thursday 27 June. At the same time, I shall arrange for a copy of this response to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament following the usual practice.

I am grateful to the Commission for the extensive work it has carried out over the period of the Report. The Commission can be assured that I fully respect its independence and value the advice which the Commission provides on a wide range of human rights matters in Northern Ireland. I am also grateful for the kind remarks made about the co-operation and assistance the Commission has received from officials. I shall now deal with the matters raised in the present Annual Report.

#### Emergency Legislation

I am very grateful for the advice which the Commission has submitted during the passage of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill. I have of course already responded to a number of the Commission's principal concerns, and my officials have also discussed issues with members of the Commission, including the law governing the use of lethal force and the video recording of interviews with terrorist suspects. I accept that the Commission