

THE ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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Alliance Leader Lord Alderdice has welcomed today's Government statement on the reform of counter terrorist legislation including exclusion orders.

Lord Alderdice said:

"The Government's statement of today is very welcome. Firstly the effective abandonment of exclusion orders is an overdue step. Northern Ireland people have, I believe, always felt unhappy about a form of internal exile for British citizens within their own country. I do not believe that anything will be lost in the fight against terrorism from this move by Government. On the contrary the supporters of terrorism will lose another propaganda point and that is a good thing.

"I also welcome the announcement that the Government intends to replace the PTA (Prevention of Terrorism 1989 Act) and the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions 1996 Act by permanent legislation. Sadly the threat of terrorism from both loyalists and republicans have not gone away and indeed international terrorism is now a fact of life which is also unlikely to disappear. The current legislation was to a great extent drawn up quickly to deal with particularly concerns and outrages. It is now time, as the Government points out, to produce more thoughtful and permanent proposals for the fight against international and domestic terrorism. We welcome the consultation period and process which was announced today and look forward to playing our part in it."

Lord Alderdice can be contacted on 0385 267496 (Mobile)