



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
11 MILLBANK
LONDON
SW1P 4QE

Lord Alderdice of Knock
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

/ July 1997

Den John

**DRAFT APPROPRIATION (NO 2) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1997
DRAFT NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1974 (INTERIM PERIOD
EXTENSION) ORDER 1997**

The Appropriation Order which covers the 1997-98 Main Estimates for Northern Ireland Departments was laid on 11 June. Its main purpose is to authorise expenditure of £3,632 million in 1997-98. This is additional to the £2,941 million Voted on Account on 14 March. The draft Order also authorises a token £1,000 to make good an excess Vote in 1995-96. In addition, it repeals two spent enactments.

The Northern Ireland Act 1974 made temporary provision for the government of Northern Ireland following the collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive in the summer of 1974 and the subsequent dissolution of the Assembly. The Act enables legislation to be made for Northern Ireland by Order in Council rather than by Measure of the Assembly, and it provides that in the discharge of their functions the Northern Ireland Departments shall be subject to the direction and control of the Secretary of State. In short, it provides for direct rule.

The Interim Period Extension Order will be debated in the House of Lords on 3 July and the Appropriation debate will be in the House of Lords on 8 July. I should be most grateful if you felt able to let me know in advance of any points relating to matters covered by the Order that you intend to raise. I should then hope to be able to provide a comprehensive reply during the debate. You should contact my Private Secretary on [REDACTED] with any points.

*Yours
afly*

LORD DUBS