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Written Ministerial Statement :Stop and Search Powers Under The Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2011

Written Ministerial Statement :Stop and Search Powers Under The Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007



The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Owen Paterson): Following the Counter Terrorism Legislation Review the Home Secretary decided to replace section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 with a more tightly circumscribed power. Consistent with those changes, I have decided to make a similar amendment to a power of stop and search in Northern Ireland.

I intend to amend the power to stop and search a person without reasonable suspicion contained in paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. In future, prior authorisation by a senior police officer, confirmed by the Secretary of State, will be required before the power to search a person without reasonable suspicion to ascertain whether he has munitions unlawfully with him or wireless apparatus with him can be exercised by a police officer. I will also create a new power for police officers to search for such items with reasonable suspicion. In due course I will exercise the power in section 34 of the 2007 Act to make a Code of Practice governing the exercise of these powers.

Powers of stop and search for the military under the 2007 Act will not be amended.

Changes to the legislation will be brought forward in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, which will be introduced into Parliament shortly. Robert Whalley, the Reviewer of the operation of these powers appointed under section 40 of the 2007 Act, is aware of the changes I plan to make.

News Releases

Paterson Condemns Attack on Dolores Kelly

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2011

PATERSON ATTENDS ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT HOMECOMING EVENTS IN MARKET DRAYTON AND SHREWSBURY

TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2011

Heed the Words of Cardinal Brady - Paterson

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2011

Written Ministerial Statement - Publication of the Report of the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

Written Ministerial Statement - Two Year Extension to Non Jury Trial System

TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

Owen Paterson - Oral Statement on the Murder of Police Constable Ronan Kerr

MONDAY 4 APRIL 2011