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NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

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CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW OF PARADES AND MARCHES APPOINTED

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP, today announced that he has appointed Dr Peter North, QC CBE, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, to chair the independent review of parades and marches in Northern Ireland. The names of the other members of the review, which will begin as soon as possible, will be announced shortly.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. Dr Peter North QC CBE, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford since 1993. He was born in Nottingham in 1936 and educated at Oakham School and Keble College, Oxford. He has lectured at the Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, 1960 - 61; the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1961 - 63; and the University of Nottingham, 1963 -65. He was Tutor in Law at Keble College, Oxford from 1965 - 76, and was Fellow of the College from 1965 - 84. He was Law Commissioner for England and Wales from 1976 - 84. He chaired the Road Traffic Law Review from 1985 - 88, and the Conciliation Project Advisory Committee, 1985 - 88. He is the author of many books and articles on various aspects of the law.

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2. Terms of reference:

The terms of reference for the review, which were announced by the Secretary of State on 24 July, are as follows:

"To review, in the light of evidence received from any interested party and having regard to the particular experience of 1996, the current arrangements for handling public processions and open-air public meetings and associated public order issues in Northern Ireland, including:

 the adequacy of the current legal provisions, and in particular the adequacy of the statutory criteria used in making decisions on public processions and open-air public meetings;

 the powers and responsibilities of the Secretary of State, police and others;

- the possible need for new machinery, both formal and informal, to play a part in determining whether and how certain public processions and open-air public meetings should take place;

 the possible role for and composition of Codes of Practice for organisers of and participants in public processions and open-air public meetings;

and to make recommendations by the end of January 1997."