

From: John Holmes  
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PRIME MINISTER

cc Edward Oakden  
Jonathan Haslam

## NORTHERN IRELAND POLICY: PRESENTATION

You may remember that, when NI met in early July to consider internment and Cranborne's ideas on reorganising the fight against terrorism, there was a lot of discussion of policy presentation. The Cabinet Office were sent away to produce proposals on this, and the committee structure dealing with terrorism. ✓

.. The attached paper is the result. The main points are strengthened and revitalised interdepartmental official bodies on Northern Ireland policy and terrorism, and a new "strategic" information group on which No.10 would be represented. The aim would be a more proactive information policy. All these bodies would function under NI. ✓

.. The paper is detailed and boring and I do not suggest you read it. The Home Secretary and Paddy Mayhew have both said they are happy with what is proposed. Portillo (letter also attached) has emphasised the need for the new committees to be genuinely active, not just a new bureaucratic layer. He has also suggested that the Northern Ireland machinery might be a model for Great Britain, and proposed a review of best practice. Both proposals are sensible.

Content to endorse what is proposed, including Portillo's ideas?

  
John Holmes

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Yes - but surely we should  
show Cranborne & seek  
his view? 1/14-9