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DEFENSIVE MATERIAL

Lines to take

North report

- work is in hand to establish the new Parades Commission soon, with conciliatory, educational and mediatory functions as announced by the Secretary of State on 30 January. The Report's proposal that the Commission should have a decision-making role is out to consultation, until the end of March; final decisions may fall to the new Parliament.
- draft legislation is being prepared to increase the period of notification of a parade or procession from 7 to 21 days; it would also introduce new controls on alcohol at parades. The Order has been out for consultation and we hope it will become law by April.

