



SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON  
SW1H 9AT

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
11 MILLBANK  
LONDON  
SW1P 4QE

pc per sec  
hs welda  
ws ebas  
w wone  
hr Groot  
ws coins  
w coter  
ws Borne  
w Joas  
w wone  
w Owen

13 October 1997

Dear Sir,

**ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE REFORM OF THE COUNTER TERRORISM  
LEGISLATION AND THE FUTURE OF EXCLUSION ORDERS: HANDLING**

I have seen the letter of 7 October from Ann Taylor's Private Secretary to your own, suggesting that there is a case for an oral statement to be made in Parliament announcing our plans for the reform of Counter Terrorism legislation and the future of Exclusion Orders.

While the announcement is an important one, it is in principle not new and I am not convinced there is a need to wait until Parliament re-assembles before our plans are made public. They are already partly in the public domain following Party Conference last week. It seems sensible to me to follow through swiftly on what was alluded to at Conference and, as you know, because of the imminent introduction of the EP Bill, I am anxious not to delay things. As you know, my original position was that the consultation document should be published and the consultation process started much earlier than the new year, so that I could have referred to it during the debate on the EP Bill. It is my preference therefore that we should press ahead as planned.

MARJORIE MOWLAM

