

NEWSLETTER. 30. JAN. 1998

## Handguns warning

THE Government is set to ban hand pistols and revolvers owned by Ulster's gun-club members, the Ulster Unionist deputy leader, John Taylor warned yesterday.

The Strangford MP said there were also plans to further restrict the distribution of personal protection weapons in the Province.

Mr Taylor slammed the move as "a scandal" and described it as "yet again

an NIO policy directed mainly against the Protestant community".

He said: "There are no more secure firearms in Northern Ireland than those in the ownership of members of licensed gun-clubs.

"It is very doubtful if any such firearms have been used in acts of terrorism. The decision by Adam Ingram is yet another example of blatant appeasement of Sinn Fein

which has been demanding the disarmament of legal firearms.

"It is typical of the present ministers at the NIO that they are prepared to seize legally held firearms but do nothing about the decommissioning of illegal firearms held by republican terrorists."

A spokesman for the NIO said: "The Secretary of State will make her intentions known about handguns."