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LEGISLATION CRITICAL PATH ANALYSIS
(last update 18 March 1998)

| Week Commencing | Referendum Order | Elections Bill & subsequent Order | Decommissioning (Amnesty Period) Order | Settlement Bill [poss covering Equality] | Prisoners Bill | Other |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|--|
| 16 March | | | • 19th: debate in Lords | | | |
| 23 March | | | | | | |
| 30 March | • notify Whips of date for debate plus send draft Order to officials at JCSI | • notify Whips of date for debate | | | | |
| 6 April | • 9th: AGREEMENT | | | | | |
| | • 10th: Cmnd paper published | | | | | |
| 13 April [Easter Recess] | | | | | | • Irish legislation introduced |
| 20 April | • 20th: draft Order laid | | | | • draft Bill ready | • [legislation to extinguish NI Forum] |
| | • 21st: JCSI | • 21st: Bill introduced | | | | |
| | • debates in both Houses | | | | | • [draft British Irish Agreement signed] |
| 27 April | • debates in both Houses | | | | | • 22nd: Irish legislation passed |
| | • 29th: SoS signs Order | • [29th: Royal Assent] | | | | |
| | • 1st: start of Ref. Campaign | | | | | |

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|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 4 May | • 22nd: REFERENDUM | • [Elections Order] | | | | |
| 11 May | | | | | | |
| 18 May | | | | | | |
| 25 May [Whitsun recess] | | • 25th: start of Election Campaign | | | | |
| June | | • 25th: ELECTION | | • 12th: end of consultation on equality issues | | • Interim Period Extension Order debates (renewal of Direct Rule) |
| July | | | | • 29th: Bill introduced • Bill through all stages incl. Royal Assent | • 29th: Bill introduced • Bill through all stages incl. Royal Assent • [Commission in place] | • [British constitutional provisions commenced] • [British/Irish Agreement ratified] |

Key Assumptions:

Recesses: Assume only one week for Easter and Whitsun recesses

Referendum Order: Assume our legislation does not have to proceed through Parliament in parallel with the Irish legislation (which, because of the 30 day rule there, must be in place by 22 April) and could therefore be made slightly later, provided it is through for the launch of the Referendum Campaign on 1 May.

Election Order: Assume can be made by affirmative resolution and contingent on a "Yes" Vote

Settlement Bill: Assume couldn't be ready before Election Campaign and that it would be wrong to introduce it during same.
Assume will cover key equality provisions

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