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LEGISLATION CRITICAL PATH ANALYSIS
(last update 26 March 1998)

Week Commencing	Referendum Order	Elections Bill & subsequent Order	Settlement Bill [poss covering Equality]	Prisoners Bill	Other
23 March 30 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify Whips of date for debate plus send draft Order to officials at JCSI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify Whips of date for debate 			
6 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th: Commons rises 9th: Lords rises 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th: AGREEMENT 				
13 April [Easter Recess]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Command paper published 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [draft Bill ready] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish legislation introduced
20 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th: draft Order laid 21st: JCSI debates in both Houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st: Bill introduced 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Order to extinguish NI Forum]
27 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> debates in both Houses 29th: SoS signs Order 1st: start of Ref. Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [29th: Royal Assent] 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [draft British Irish Agreement signed] 22nd: Irish legislation passed
4 May 11 May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Elections Order] 			

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18 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22nd: REFERENDUM 				
25 May [Whitsun recess]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25th: start of Election Campaign 			
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25th: ELECTION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th: end of consultation on equality issues 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Period Extension Order debates (renewal of Direct Rule)
July			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29th: Bill introduced Bill through all stages incl. Royal Assent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29th: Bill introduced Bill through all stages incl. Royal Assent [Commission in place] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [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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Dotted lines indicate Landmark dates, shading indicates likely Parliamentary recesses