

Northern Ireland Statistics on the Operation of the Prevention Of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974,1976,1984 and 1989



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

1st Quarter: January-March 2000

Key points

In the first quarter of 2000:

- *71 persons were detained in Northern Ireland under the 1989 Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act.*
- *10 applications for an extension of detention were made; all of which were granted.*
- *The 10 applications granted related to 8 individuals - 1 individual being subject to more than one extension.*
- *No exclusion orders were made.*
- *63 persons were detained for 48 hours or less, 8 for over 48 hours.*
- *24 persons were charged with a criminal offence and 47 were released.*
- *1 person was charged under section 9 of the 1989 Act.*
- *The 24 persons were charged with 38 offences including 2 offences of murder, 7 explosive offences, and 17 firearms offences.*

Northern Ireland Statistics on the Operation of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1989

Note to Editors

1. Further information is contained in the attached tables. Any references in the tables and text to the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1989 have been shortened to read either “the Prevention of Terrorism Acts” or “the Acts”.

TABLE 1 refers to persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1989 (section 7 of the 1974 Act; section 12 of the 1976 and 1984 Acts; section 14 of the 1989 Act).

TABLE 2 refers to all charges brought against persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1989 (including offences specified by the Acts) by individual offence.

TABLE 3 refers to all charges brought against persons detained in Northern Ireland for offences specifically included in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974, 1976, 1984 and 1989; and under the Prevention of Terrorism (Supplemental Temporary Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Orders 1976 and 1984.

TABLES 4 AND 5 refer to persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and charged with a criminal offence or released without charge by length of detention.

2. The Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1974 came into force on 29 November 1974. It introduced new powers to deal with terrorism and in particular -

- (i) make it possible to exclude from Great Britain, from Northern Ireland, or from the United Kingdom as a whole, persons involved in terrorism associated with Northern Ireland; and
- (ii) provided the police with powers to arrest suspected terrorists and detain them for 48 hours on their own authority, with the possibility of an extension of detention for a further period of up to 5 days authorised by the Secretary of State.

3. The 1974 Act was replaced on 25 March 1976 by the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1976 which, in addition to the powers granted by the 1974 Act, also made it an offence to contribute to or to solicit contributions towards acts of terrorism, or to withhold information relating to acts of terrorism or persons committing them.

4. On 22 March 1984 the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1984 came into operation. It re-enacted the provisions of the 1976 Act with some modifications to incorporate the changes recommended by Lord Jellicoe in his review of the operation of the 1976 Act. Two of the main changes to the 1976 Act relate to exclusion orders and were as follows:

- (a) the life of exclusion orders is restricted to three years from the day on which they are made but the Secretary of State may make a further order against the person who is the subject of an order which has expired;
- (b) the period of ordinary residence in a part of the United Kingdom which exempts a British citizen from exclusion from that part has been reduced from 20 years to 3 years

5. Another change concerned the extension of a person's period of detention mentioned at 2 (ii) above. The 1984 Act enabled the Secretary of State to extend the initial period of 48 hours by a *period or periods* not exceeding 5 days in all. Under the 1974 and 1976 Acts, if the extension was for, say, 3 days a further extension up to the 5 day overall limit could not be specified.

6. On 22 March 1989 the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 came into operation. It re-enacts many of the provisions of the 1984 Act but also incorporates a number of changes recommended by Lord Colville of Culross in his review of the operation of the 1984 Act. The new measures include:

- (i) powers to facilitate the investigation and seizure of terrorist funds
- (ii) changes in remission for persons convicted of scheduled offences in Northern Ireland; and
- (iii) the introduction of a scheme of regular reviews during the first 48 hours of detention under Section 14.

Table 1: Persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts

29 November 1974 - 31 March 2000		
Year	Persons Detained	Applications for Extension of Detention which were granted ⁽¹⁾
1974 (from 29 November)	-	-
1975	8	5
1976	246	202
1977	162	123
1978	151	144
1979	162	126
1980	222	186
1981	495	401
1982	828	639
1983	1,175	728
1984	908	533
1985	938	557
1986	1,309	484
1987	1,459	451
1988	1,717	542
1989	1,583	530
1990	1,549	460
1991	1,680	571
1992	1,795	441
1993	1,641	455
1994	1,503	384
1995	443	12
1996	569	60
1997	504	72
1998	555	178
1999	369	79
2000 1st quarter	71	10

Note: (1) 10 applications for an extension of detention were made during the 1st quarter of 2000 - all 10 were granted. The applications granted consisted of 2 one day extensions, 5 two day extensions and 3 three day extensions. The 10 applications granted related to 8 separate individuals.

Table 2: Charges brought against persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts by individual offence

- Since 29 November 1974 following detention under the Acts 5,989 persons have been charged with 10,737 offences (including offences specifically under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts).
- 38 such charges were made in the 1st quarter of 2000.

Number of charges ¹			
Offence Charge	29 Nov 1974 - 31 Dec 1999	1 Jan 2000 - 31 March 2000	Total To Date
Murder	647	2	649
Attempted Murder	529	0	529
Explosives Offences	992	7	999
Firearms Offences	2,097	17	2,114
Conspiracy to Cause an Explosion	124	0	124
Conspiracy to Murder	416	0	416
Membership	932	1	933
Burglary	138	0	138
Robbery	810	1	811
Offences Against the Person	442	0	442
Possession of Documents	113	2	115
Theft	93	0	93
Hi-jackings	407	2	409
Criminal Damage	69	0	69
Illegal Processions	1	0	1
Unlawful Imprisonment	352	0	352
Withholding Information	444	0	444
Intimidation	180	0	180
Arson	299	0	299
Conspiracy to pervert Justice	33	1	34
Kidnapping	36	0	36
Placing Hoax Bomb	38	1	39

Table 2: (continued)			
Assisting Offenders	62	0	62
Attempted Hi-jacking	44	0	44
Conspiracy to Rob	99	0	99
Attempted Robbery	94	0	94
Handling Stolen Goods	94	0	94
Possession of Petrol Bomb	292	0	292
Making Contributions to a Proscribed Organisation	254	1	255
Dressing as a Member of a Proscribed Organisation	8	0	8
Breach of Exclusion Order	4	0	4
Deception	46	0	46
Motoring Offences	21	0	21
Drugs Offences	31	2	33
Prisons Act	1	0	1
Blackmail	160	1	161
Acting to Impede an Apprehension	5	0	5
Forgery	12	0	12
Riotous Behaviour	78	0	78
Disorderly Behaviour	11	0	11
Escaping from Custody	4	0	4
Possession of Offensive Weapon	39	0	39
Fraud	34	0	34
Possession of Counterfeit Currency	5	0	5
Possession of Articles of use to Terrorist	108	0	108
Directing Terrorism	1	0	1
TOTAL	10,699	38	10,737

Note: (1) The charges in this table refer to those brought against the individual after the original period of detention (including extensions). This table does not include any subsequent changes (additions/deletions) to the original charges.

Table 3: Persons detained in Northern Ireland charged with offences contained specifically in the Prevention of Terrorism Acts

- The number of persons charged since 29 November 1974 is 341. By 31 March 2000, 14 persons had been charged under 2 sections of the Acts meaning that since 29 November 1974 a total of 355 charges had been brought under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts.
- 257 of the 341 persons charged with specific offences contained in the Acts were initially arrested under powers contained in the Acts. 99 of these were charged after an extension of their initial period of detention.
- In the 1st quarter of 2000, 1 person was charged under Section 19 of the 1989 Act - after an extension to their initial period of detention.

	29 Nov 1974 - 31 Dec 1999	1 Jan 2000 - 31 March 2000	Total To Date
1974 Act	-	-	-
1976 Act			
Section 9 (1) (failure to comply with exclusion order)	8	-	8
Section 10 (2) (contributions to acts of terrorism)	11	-	11
Section 11 (1) (withholding information about acts of terrorism)	71	-	71
Article 13 (3) of Prevention of Terrorism (Supplemental Temporary Provisions) (N.I.) Order 1976 (aircraft landing without approval)	1	-	1
1984 Act			
Section 10 (2) (contribution to acts of terrorism)	17	0	17
Section 11 (1) (withholding information about acts of terrorism)	11	-	11
Prevention of Terrorism (Supplemental Temporary Provisions) (N.I.) Order 1984	-	-	-
1989 Act			
Section 9 (2) (contribution to acts of terrorism)	79	1	80
Section 10 (contributions to resources of proscribed organisations)	93	0	93
Section 11 (assisting in retention or control of terrorist funds)	5	0	5
Section 18 (information about acts of terrorism)	58	0	58
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARGES	354	1	355

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED	340	1	341
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Table 4: Persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 by length of detention and outcome

1 January - 31 March 2000			
Length of Detention	Number Charged	Number Released	Total
Under 48 hours	18	45	63
Over 48 hours	6	2	8
TOTAL	24	47	71

Table 5: Persons detained in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 by length of detention and outcome

1 January - 31 March 2000			
Length of Detention	Number Charged	Number Released	Total
Less than 2 hours	0	0	0
2 hours and less than 4	0	0	0
4 hours and less than 8	0	3	3
8 hours and less than 12	1	6	7
12 hours and less than 24	3	7	10
24 hours and less than 36	8	24	32
36 hours and less than 48	6	5	11
TOTAL UNDER 48 HOURS	18	45	63
2 days and less than 3	1	1	2
3 days and less than 4	1	1	2
4 days and less than 5	3	0	3
5 days and less than 6	0	0	0
6 days and less than 7	1	0	1
TOTAL OVER 48 HOURS	6	2	8
OVERALL TOTALS	24	47	71

Table 6: Persons charged following detention in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts

- Since 29 November 1974, 5,989 persons have been charged following detention under the Acts.
- 3,082 were charged following an extension to their initial detention.
- 2,907 were charged without extension to their initial detention.
- In the 1st quarter of 2000, 24 persons were charged, 6 following an extension to their initial detention.

Persons charged following detention in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts			
	29 Nov 1974 - 31 Dec 1999	1 Jan- 31 March 2000	Total to Date
Extension to original period of detention	3,076	6	3,082
No extension to original period of detention ⁽¹⁾	2,889	18	2,907
TOTAL PERSONS CHARGED	5,965	24	5,989

Note: (1) The total number of persons charged (5,989) is less than the total number of charges (10,737 Table 2) as some persons were charged with more than one offence.

Table 7: Persons excluded by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland using powers contained in the Prevention of Terrorism Acts

- Since 29 November 1974, 34 persons have been the subject of Exclusion Orders. At 31 March 2000, none of these Orders were still in force. 30 of the Orders were revoked and 4 were allowed to lapse.

29 November 1974 - 31 March 2000			
Year	Orders Made	Year	Orders Made
1975	1	1990	0
1976	1	1991	0
1977	0	1992	0
1978	2	1993	0
1979	4	1994	1
1980	3	1995	0
1981	11	1996	0
1982	2	1997	0
1983	4	1998	0
1984	2	1999	0
1985	0	2000 1st Quarter	0
1986	0		
1987	1		
1988	1		
1989	1		

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Table 2: Exclusion Orders made under the Prevention of Terrorism Acts following detention in Northern Ireland

- Since 29 November 1974, 34 persons have been the subject of Exclusion Orders. At 31 March 1998, none of these orders were still in force.

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of Table 7 - do
not use

29 November 1974 - 31 March 1998		
Year		Orders Made
1975		1
1976		1
1977		0
1978		2
1979		4
1980		3
1981		11
1982		2
1983		4
1984		2
1985		0
1986		0
1987		1
1988		1
1989		1
1990		0
1991		0
1992		0
1993		0
1994		1
1995		0
1996		0
1997		0
1998	1st quarter	0

