



Northern Ireland Office

PQ/06/1924

DATE FOR ANSWER: 2 MAY 2006

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the transfer of lead responsibility on national security in Northern Ireland to MI5 with the Patten Report; and if he will make a statement. **(66535)**

SHAUN WOODWARD

The transfer of lead responsibility for national security intelligence work in Northern Ireland is entirely consistent with the Patten Report paragraph 6.15 and Recommendation 20. Paragraph 6.15 says, inter alia: 'We recommend that responsibility for policing be devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive as soon as possible, except for matters of national security.' It is also wholly consistent with the current position in the rest of the United Kingdom and with the comments at paragraph 6.22: 'As in the rest of the United Kingdom (including Scotland under the new devolved arrangements there), the Chief Constable remains fully accountable for the involvement of police in matters involving national security, even though his or her main accountability in such matters is to the Secretary of State rather than to the Policing Board.'



Northern Ireland Office

PQ/06/1916

PQ/06/1917

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PQ/06/1920

PQ/06/1921

PQ/06/2016

DATE FOR ANSWER: 3 MAY 2006

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will take steps to establish a public inquiry into MI5's handling of threat information on a possible bomb attack at Omagh prior to 15th August 1998. **(66423)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how many people were (a) killed and (b) injured as a result of the Omagh bomb. **(66424)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether he has made representations to (a) the Home Office and (b) MI5 for the head of MI5 to meet the families of the Omagh bomb victims to discuss the statement by the Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland that MI5 had threat information on a possible bomb attack at Omagh prior to 15th August 1998. **(66425)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if the head of MI5 will meet the families of the Omagh bomb victims to discuss the statement by the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland that MI5 had threat information on a possible bomb attack at Omagh prior to 15th August 1998. **(66427)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will make a statement on the statement of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) that some threat information gathered by MI5 on a possible bomb attack in Omagh prior to 15th August 1998 was only passed to the PSNI in 2006. **(66430)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will list each date on which MI5 passed information to the Police Service of Northern Ireland relating to a possible bomb attack at Omagh prior to 15th August 1998. **(66431)**

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review plans to give MI5 primacy on national security in Northern Ireland following confirmation by the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) that MI5 did not pass on to the PSNI threat information relating to Omagh prior to the 1998 Omagh bombing. **(67297)**



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SHAUN WOODWARD

The Omagh bombing was the single worst atrocity of the Troubles in Northern Ireland: 29 people were killed and two unborn twins died and more than 200 people were injured. The lives of countless people were damaged as a result. We remain committed to catching those who perpetrated this hideous act and to bringing them to justice. The Chief Constable made a clear statement to the Policing Board on 1 March 2006 that the Security Service did not withhold intelligence that was relevant or would have progressed the Omagh enquiry. It remains the policy of successive governments to neither confirm nor deny matters relating to intelligence information. The Treasury Solicitor's Department has explained in correspondence with lawyers acting on behalf of the families of Omagh bomb victims why the Security Service is unable to provide them with any information. We do not believe therefore in the case for a public inquiry; nor is there a case to review the decision to transfer the lead role for national security intelligence work in Northern Ireland from the police to the Security Service.

E.R

Thursday, 4 May 2006

Written No: 364
(26.04.06)

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many informers made redundant by the Police Service Northern Ireland since its creation have been recruited by M15.
[66523]

CHARLES CLARKE

It is the longstanding policy of successive governments not to comment on the operational activities of the Security Service.

E.R

Thursday, 4 May 2006

Written No: 366
(26.04.06)

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what measures are in place to ensure the sharing of information between M15 and the Police Service Northern Ireland; and what recent steps he has taken to test these arrangements.
[66528]

CHARLES CLARKE

Information is routinely shared between the Security Service and Police Service Northern Ireland at all levels. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and I are satisfied that the information sharing arrangements work well and will continue to do so.

E.R

Thursday, 4 May 2006

Written No: 471
(01.05.06)

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will seek the resignation of (a) the head of MI5 and (b) members of her staff in connection with the Omagh bombing.
[67213]

CHARLES CLARKE

No.



Northern Ireland Office

PQ/06/2365

DATE FOR ANSWER: 25 MAY 2006

Mark Durkan (Foyle): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether (a) the Police Service of Northern Ireland and (b) MI5 has primacy in intelligence gathering for paramilitary and subversive activity by the (i) UVF, (ii) UDA, (iii) LVF, (iv) Provisional IRA, (v) Continuity IRA and (vi) Real IRA. **(72926)**

PAUL GOGGINS

Lead responsibility for intelligence work to counter the threat from terrorism in Northern Ireland posed by all the groups listed, currently lies with the PSNI. In line with the Government's Written Statement to Parliament of 24 February 2005, lead responsibility for that work will transfer to the Security Service during 2007 and provide consistency with the rest of the United Kingdom.