



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE
Home Secretary
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

NBR
24^h March 1986

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 14 March to Willie Whitelaw about your proposals for changes in the law concerning anonymity in rape cases.

I appreciate the points you have made and agree with them in principle, although I note that some refinement will inevitably be necessary.

As you of course are aware, it is the practice in Northern Ireland to keep in line with the rest of the United Kingdom, whenever possible, on matters dealing with serious crimes. I would certainly wish to consider what amendments should follow, in due course, to the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, when the provisions which you propose have been finalised. I note that the proposals will apply, with George Younger's agreement, to the Armed Forces, which will include those in Northern Ireland.

/ Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, other members of H Committee, George Younger and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours Sincerely
N Howard
(Private Secretary)
for TK
(approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence in Northern Ireland).

Legal procedure: Law of Rape Jan 82