



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

ABB
nbpm

SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw PC CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
WHITEHALL
London
SW1

13 October 1986

Dear Lord President,

I have seen a copy of Douglas Hurd's letter of 2 October 1986 detailing his revised proposals to provide anonymity to rape victims from the time of a complaint.

I fully accept the strength of his argument in favour of introducing the offence of publishing names, photographs or addresses of rape victims at the earlier stage being proposed. However, he may wish to consider adding details of a person's employment to the prohibition as in certain circumstances this could equally lead to the identification of a victim. Even age, especially in associating with other information, might point to a particular person.

As I indicated previously, I would propose to consider the introduction of a corresponding provision for Northern Ireland by an amendment to the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as soon as it would be practical to do so. I would of course also be seeking at that time agreement to the corresponding Attorney General's consent safeguard being introduced for the equivalent offence in Northern Ireland.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of H Committee, the Secretary of State for Defence and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Edward
(Private Secretary)

for TK

(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence in Northern Ireland)

LEGAL PROCEDURE

RABE

1/12