
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No. 2564

The Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001

PART III

LIFE SENTENCES

Release on licence

Power to release life prisoners on compassionate grounds

7.—(1) The [^{F1}Department of Justice] may at any time release a life prisoner on licence if [^{F2}the Department of Justice] is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist which justify the prisoner's release on compassionate grounds.

(2) Before releasing a life prisoner under paragraph (1), the [^{F3}Department of Justice] shall consult the Commissioners, unless the circumstances are such as to render such consultation impracticable.

[^{F4}(3) The Secretary of State may notify the Department of Justice that a life prisoner is not to be released under this Article without the Secretary of State's agreement; and, if the Secretary of State gives such a notification in relation to a prisoner, the Department of Justice may not release the prisoner under this Article without the Secretary of State's agreement.

(4) But the Secretary of State may—

- (a) give a notification, or
- (b) refuse his agreement to a release,

only if his decision to do so is arrived at (wholly or partly) on the basis of protected information.]

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F1 | Words in art. 7(1) substituted (12.4.2010) by Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 6(2), Sch. 5 para. 5(a)(i) (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, art. 1(2) |
| F2 | Words in art. 7(1) substituted (12.4.2010) by Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 6(2), Sch. 5 para. 5(a)(ii) (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, art. 1(2) |
| F3 | Words in art. 7(2) substituted (12.4.2010) by Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 6(2), Sch. 5 para. 5(b) (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, art. 1(2) |
| F4 | Art. 7(3)(4) inserted (12.4.2010) by Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 6(2), Sch. 5 para. 5(c) (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, art. 1(2) |

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001, Section 7.