

# RACE RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY

#### *Section 8: National Security Procedure*

66. Section 8 of the 2000 Act **inserts a new section 67A** into the 1976 Act which makes provision for courts to adopt certain special procedures when dealing with cases under the Act that raise national security issues.
67. *Section 67A(1)* provides that **rules may be made** enabling a court, where it considers it expedient for national security reasons, to:
- exclude the claimant, and/or his representative(s), and/or court assessors, from all or part of proceedings;
  - allow an excluded claimant or representative to make a statement to the court; and
  - take steps to keep the reasons for its decision secret.
68. *Section 67A(2) to (4)* also provide that, where a claimant and his representatives have been so excluded from proceedings, the Attorney General or, in Scotland, the Advocate General for Scotland, **may appoint a person suitably qualified** to represent the interests of a claimant. It provides that this person shall not be responsible to the claimant. These provisions are based on similar provisions in section 6 of the Special Appeals Commission Act 1997.