



Northern
Ireland
Office

Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Chair Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
Houses of Parliament
London SW1A 0AA

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1 2HQ
T 020 7210 0236
T 0207 210 6464

Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH

E: sos@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
@niogov

24 July 2018

During the course of my recent appearance before the Committee, I agreed to provide some further information regarding the on the runs administrative scheme that was introduced by the previous Labour Government.

As the Government made clear in a statement to Parliament in September 2014 in relation to any information provided to individuals under the scheme, 'Those who received individual or composite letters (or any other form of indication) stating that they were 'not wanted' and who derived comfort from that, should cease to derive any such comfort...those who have received such statements now know in clear terms what position the Government takes. They now have fair and clear warning that such comfort as they may have derived from the statements can no longer be taken. There is no continuing basis for any reliance on the past statements.'

This statement was deliberately made in the public setting of Parliament, recognising and intending that it should be widely publicised as a result. In addition the then Secretary of State (Theresa Villiers) brought the statement to the attention of each of those who made requests on behalf of named individuals, reflecting the channels through which the communication of the original letters was made. The Government also made clear that the scheme had come to an end.

Furthermore, the statement made clear that decisions about investigation and prosecution will be taken on the basis of available intelligence and/or evidence relating to whether or not the person concerned committed offences. That means that in any of their cases decisions today and in the future will be taken on the basis of the views that are formed about investigation and prosecution by the independent police and prosecution services. I hope this information clarifies the position in relation to the on the runs administrative scheme.

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND