

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Amendments to the Security Licensing procedures in Northern Ireland

Companies wishing to provide security services, such as mobile patrols, dog handlers or security vans, must be licensed by the Secretary of State. The existing regulatory regime under the Terrorism Act 2000 will be repealed on 31 July 2007. From 1 August 2007 a new licensing regime under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 will apply. This change will only affect new applications or licences that expire on or after 1 August 2007. Licences issued before this date under the Terrorism Act 2000 will remain valid until their expiry date. Applicants should note the processing of applications may take up to twelve weeks. The issue of a licence does not imply that the Secretary of State recognises the efficiency, financial standing or reliability of a security firm. The licence may be revoked at any time.

In the longer term, the industry in Northern Ireland will be regulated by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The SIA is an independent body that is currently responsible for the regulation of the private security industry in England and Wales and Scotland.

If you have any queries regarding this notice please contact the Northern Ireland Office on:

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