



# Home Office

## HOME SECRETARY

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Rt Hon. John Bercow MP  
Speaker  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

24 SEP 2010

Dear John

Since Parliament is not sitting, I am writing to you in order to inform Parliament of a change to the threat level for Great Britain from Irish-related terrorism.

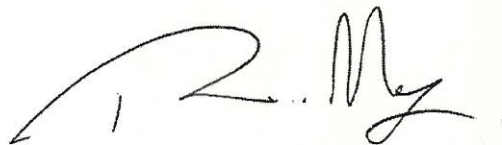
In his recent speech, the Director General of the Security Service confirmed that we are facing a real threat from Irish-related terrorism. He spoke of a persistent rise in terrorist activity in Northern Ireland over the past three years and indicated that we could not exclude the possibility that terrorists might seek to extend their attacks to Great Britain.

On the basis of this judgment, the Security Service has raised the threat level for Great Britain from Irish-related terrorism from MODERATE to SUBSTANTIAL. This means that an attack is a strong possibility. The threat level from Irish-related terrorism in Northern Ireland remains at SEVERE, indicating an attack is highly likely.

This is the first time that the Irish-related threat assessment to Great Britain has been published. We have decided to do this in the interests of increased transparency and to give the public a better understanding of the picture, encouraging them to be alert.

There will not be any visible change in security measures, as these are informed by the overall UK threat level for international terrorism, which remains constant at SEVERE. Our highest priority remains the protection of the public from terrorism, regardless of its source.

Alan Johnson and Owen Patterson are being briefed in similar terms. I am copying this letter to the Baroness Hayman and am placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a stylized 'M'.

**Rt Hon. Theresa May MP**