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DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2001 No.**

Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001

Part III

LIFE SENTENCES

*Release on licence*

**Power to release life prisoners on compassionate grounds**

7.—(1) The Secretary of State may at any time release a life prisoner on licence if he 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 Secretary of State shall consult the Commissioners, unless the circumstances are such as to render such consultation impracticable.