

I should mention, in case Ms Nelson is not already aware, that the Northern Ireland Office runs a limited non-statutory discretionary scheme by which security measures can be installed in homes at public expense. The scheme is by necessity limited in its scope and cannot protect everyone who may be at some degree of threat from terrorist. It's aim is to protect those whose death or injury from terrorist attack could damage or seriously undermine the democratic framework of government; the effective administration of government and/or the criminal justice system' or the maintenance of law and order. Clearly a judgement has to be made about the candidacy of any individual who applies to join the scheme, and of the level of threat which they might be under. If Ms Nelson wishes to be considered for the scheme she should apply to the Northern Ireland Office, Key Persons Protection Scheme, Room 41 Massey House, Belfast. We cannot of course give any assurances as to the outcome. Any application will be dealt with on it's merits.

Any applications for a personal protection weapon should be made to the Chief Constable to consider. Application forms can be obtained from the local police station or Firearms Licencing Branch, RUC, Lisnasharra, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast.

Ms Nelson may also contact her local crime prevention officer in relation to security advice at her home and at her workplace. I hope you understand that beyond these general points it would not be appropriate to comment further to a third party on the security of an individual.