

Act 1991 permits Constables to enter premises other than dwelling-houses to ascertain whether or not there are explosives unlawfully in the premises. Even if the proprietor does not wish them to enter, they can insist. However, the section does not permit Constables to require all persons to leave the premises if explosives are found, but to fail to warn them of the danger would be a neglect of duty.

- (c) Accordingly, if there are grounds for believing that a bomb scare call is genuine (eg. a recognised code-word has been used, or there is evidence of a breach of security) the reasonable steps would include a full search of the premises. The mere presence of police searching might be sufficient to persuade a substantial number of persons to leave the premises, but in any case it would be preferable if the officer in charge asked all customers to leave, even if the proprietor did not.
- (d) It is also important that the police should make the public aware of the existence of a danger as this could become relevant as regards Article 6(1) of the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988, which would allow a court to hold that the person who, being aware of the bomb scare relating to the premises in which he was, failed to leave those premises, was negligent in his behaviour and thereby contributed to the injury he received.