EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE PROSCRIBED ORGANISATIONS (NAME CHANGE) ORDER 2025

2025 No. 210

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Home Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

1.2 This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee.

2. Declaration

2.1 Dan Jarvis MBE MP, Minister of State for Security at the Home Office, can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 The Acting Deputy Director for the Counter-Terrorism Pursue Unit at the Home Office confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 The Counter-Terrorism Pursue Unit at the Home Office can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument at the Home Office, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF; telephone: 020 7035 4848, PursuePolicyTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 This Order specifies that the "Majeed Brigade" is to be treated as an alternative name for the Baluchistan Liberation Army, which was proscribed in July 2006.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.2 The territorial extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction which this instrument forms part of the law of) is the United Kingdom.

4.3 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is the United Kingdom.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 Section 3(6) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) permits the Secretary of State, by Order, to provide that a name that is not specified in Schedule 2 to TACT is to be treated as another name for a terrorist organisation that is already proscribed. Article 2 of this Order provides that the "Majeed Brigade" (MB) is to be treated as an alternative name for the proscribed organisation that is listed in Schedule 2 as the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA).

5.2 The MB is an active element of the BLA and has been involved in several recent high-profile attacks across the Balochistan province of Pakistan, including an attack which killed at least 27 and injured over 60 more at a railway station in November 2024. The ideology, aims and methods of the MB and BLA are essentially the same in all material respects, as are the members of both groups. Formally recognising the MB as an alias of the BLA publicly clarifies the Government's assessment of group, including the MB's role within it, and clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to supporting the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.3 Although the BLA is listed in Schedule 2 of TACT 2000, the Majeed Brigade is not.

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 Section 3(3) of TACT allows the Secretary of State, by Order, to add an organisation to the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2 to TACT, to remove an organisation from that list or to amend Schedule 2 in some other way.

6.2 An organisation is proscribed in the UK as soon as an Order adding it to Schedule 2 comes into force. It is a criminal offence for a person to belong to, or invite support for, a proscribed organisation. It is also a criminal offence to arrange a meeting to support a proscribed organisation; or to wear clothing or carry articles in public which arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation.

6.3 Section 3(6) of TACT permits the Secretary of State, by Order, to provide that a name that is not specified in Schedule 2 is to be treated as another name for an organisation that is proscribed in Schedule 2.

6.4 For an Order under section 3(6) of TACT to be made specifying a new or additional name under which a proscribed organisation is operating, the Secretary of State must believe that it is either operating wholly or partly under a name that is not specified in Schedule 2 or it is for all practical purposes the same as an organisation so listed.

6.5 In coming to this belief, there must be credible evidence to suggest that:

a. the ideology, aims and methods of each of the groups are essentially the same in all material respects;

b. the leaders or key individuals involved in each group are either the same people or are materially the same group of people; and

c. those who are members of each group are also members of the other group (or at the least, that generally speaking is the position).

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.6 This is the only possible approach to make the necessary changes.

7. Consultation

7.1 No public consultation has been undertaken in connection with this instrument, given the sensitive nature of the Government's assessment of MB which relies on intelligence assessments.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 No guidance is necessary in connection with this instrument.

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because the legislation does not apply to the activities that are undertaken by businesses.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small businesses.

9.4 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 If a proscribed organisation, or any person affected by the proscription of the organisation, applies to the Secretary of State for deproscription, the proscription of the organisation will be reviewed. An affected person may similarly apply for a name to cease to be treated as an alternative name for a proscribed organisation. If the Secretary of State refuses an application for deproscription, the applicant may appeal to the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission.

10.2 The Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation is responsible for scrutinising and reporting on the use of terrorism legislation including the proscription power under TACT 2000.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 This Order comes into force on the day after it is laid before Parliament and accordingly breaches the 21-day convention. Proscription orders are by long-standing convention subject to a fast track procedure agreed with the House authorities. This arrangement mitigates the risk that any delay between the laying and coming into force of an instrument proscribing an organisation enables that organisation's members to take pre-emptive designed to circumvent the provisions of TACT and/or the criminal law.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument does not relate to withdrawal from the European Union / trigger the statement requirements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.