

Sexual Offences Bill

1. A Sexual Offences Bill linked to the Criminal Justice Bill was introduced on 29 January 2003 which:

- Proposes new sentences to keep sexual and violent offenders in prison as long as they pose a danger or to include extended periods of supervision.
- Extends the duty to manage potentially dangerous offenders in the community, currently on police and probation, to other agencies including local housing authorities, health authorities and youth offending teams.

2. The Bill will strengthen the Sex Offenders Register by:

- Making offenders reconfirm their details annually;
- Introducing a new order to make those convicted of sex offences abroad register when they come to the UK; and
- Reducing the period within which a sex offender must notify details following a change of address from 14 to 3 days;

3. A new 'grooming' offence will be introduced targeting those who gain the trust of children so that they can subsequently sexually abuse them.

4. The Multi-Agency Public Protection (MAPP) arrangements, where police, probation and partner agencies manage sexual and violent offenders in the community will be developed and strengthened by:

- Issuing guidance to each police/probation area to develop greater consistency across the 42 areas, particularly in defining dangerousness;
- Developing the strategic management arrangements to include serious case reviews and analysis of the operational work;
- Looking to involve more members of the public in the work of the MAPP Panels.

5. The UK Government anticipate that the Bill will be enacted in October 2003.

