



# Home Office

**Sentencing and Offences Unit**  
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304, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT  
Switchboard 020 7273 4000 Fax 020 7273 4345 Direct Line 020 7273 3123  
E-mail [stuart.harwood@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.harwood@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

E. Goodman  
Campaign Against Censorship  
23 Budgen Drive  
Redhill  
RH1 2QB

Our Ref  
Your Ref  
Date

11 February 2003

Dear E. Goodman

## SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL

Thank you for your letter dated 1 February 2003 to Hilary Benn, about the Sexual Offences Bill. I work in the section of the Home Office with responsibility for this area.

I am sorry if you feel that the issues you raised in response to the consultation document "Setting the Boundaries" have not been noted. We received over 700 varied responses to that document and all the views and issues were noted and considered. However, we cannot undertake to act upon all those views. In November 2002, the Government published its command paper "Protecting the Public" outlining its plans for legislative reform in light of the "Setting the Boundaries" consultation exercise and it is upon these proposals that the Bill has been based.

In response to your specific point about legislation relating to prostitution, "Protecting the Public" states that the Government will examine the scope for a review of the issues surrounding prostitution, the exploitation, organised criminality and class A drug abuse associated with it. I hope this is of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Harwood  
Policy Adviser