

*These notes refer to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c.42)  
which received Royal Assent on 20 November 2003*

# SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT 2003

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### **Part 1: Sexual Offences**

#### ***Section 24: Sections 16 to 19: sexual relationships which pre-date position of trust***

50. **Section 24** provides A with a defence to abuse of position of trust offences if he can prove that his sexual relationship with B pre-dated his relationship of trust with B. So if A could prove that he and B had a sexual relationship before A went to work at the school at which B is a pupil, he would not commit an offence by continuing that sexual relationship. The effect of *subsection (2)* is to limit this to the situation where the sexual relationship that pre-dated the relationship of trust was lawful, so it would not cover for example a relationship with a child of under 16.