

*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 74: "Consent"***

139. **Section 74** defines "consent" for the purposes of this Part. This definition is relevant to many sections in the Part including, for example, the offence of rape (section 1). The section refers to a person's capacity to make a choice. A person might not have sufficient capacity because of his age or because of a mental disorder.