

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT SEXUAL OFFENCES (JERSEY) LAW 200- (P.63/2006): COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 12th June 2006
by the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture welcomes the Draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law 200- which creates new offences in respect of sexual grooming and the abuse of a position of trust.

The protection and welfare of children is a prime concern for society and is central to the work of the Department for Education, Sport and Culture and the associated organisations that interact with children to provide opportunities for learning and engagement. As such, the Department requires the highest standards of probity in respect of the interaction of teachers and all others who have contact with children regarding the development and maintenance of appropriate relationships and interaction. Any failure to meet these expectations is regarded as gross misconduct and results in disciplinary action.

The Law, in creating offences in respect of sexual grooming and the abuse of a position of trust, gives legal force to the stance that has been maintained by the Department for Education, Sport and Culture and it is right and proper that serious penalties are applied to those who commit these offences. The Law provides further recognition of the commitment of the community to protect the interests and welfare of children and strengthens the position of those who are responsible for ensuring that expectations are met.

The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture commends the Draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law 200- to the States.