

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law 201- Review

The Panel received the following answer from the Director of Criminal Justice, to a question about whether male genital mutilation had been considered for inclusion in the Draft Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law 201-

FGM will apply to females of any age. We did have a discussion about male circumcision but didn't seek to include it in the draft Law. This topic is gaining prominence at the moment because Iceland is about to propose a ban. This move is highly controversial and religious leaders have described the move as an attack on religious freedom. Some critics, predominantly Jews and Muslims fear the issue may become a proxy for antisemitism and Islamophobia. On the other side of the argument, the Icelandic view is that circumcision violates the rights of young boys and is incompatible with UNCRC.

The conclusion that we came to is to 'watch and wait' to see how this pans out across Europe and the UK and for future governments to make amendments.