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# Annex C: Legislation

The offence of Abuse of Trust was introduced into the criminal law by the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, which came into effect on 1 January 2001. The offence criminalised *consensual* activity between adults (over 18 years of age) and children (aged 16 and 17 years) where the adult holds a position of trust or authority in relation to certain designated positions and establishments such as a child in a residential home or detention centre or in an educational establishment.

Following a comprehensive review of sexual offences legislation, the abuse of positions of trust provision was re-enacted as part of the Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2003 (in Northern Ireland the provisions were again re-enacted in the Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008 which codified in one statue NI sexual offences law). As part of the review which led to the introduction of new legislation, the scope of the offence of abuse of trust was extended. It now prohibits sexual activity in defined circumstances where an adult regularly looks after a child on an individual basis or where the adult, in the course of his/her duties has regular, unsupervised contact with a child, for example Connexions workers (in England).

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