

**3. Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill 2019 –
First Reading approved**

Miss August-Hanson to move:

That the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill 2019 be read a first time.

165 **The President:** We turn to Item 3, Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill 2019.
I call on the mover, Hon. Member of Council Miss August-Hanson.

Miss August-Hanson: Thank you, Mr President.

170 First, I would like to pay tribute to the man who faithfully asked me to work on this
comprehensive, technical and modern piece of legislation and bring it before you for scrutiny,
the late Minister, the Hon. Bill Malarkey.

175 I would also like to show appreciation for the legislative drafters; to Dr Alex Allinson MHK, as
a Member of the Department, for his professional approach to making suggestions that have
come to mould good policy here; to experts who have advised on various aspects of the Bill; to
the Isle of Man Constabulary; to the General Registry for their input at consultation; to the
charities who have delivered on their professional reviews; and to Tynwald Members who
responded carefully and engaged constructively on the detail of the Bill with the Department
with critical eyes and open hearts and minds; and more importantly, I would like to give my
honest and sincere appreciation to members of the public who have responded to consultation,
180 particularly those who have gracefully painted a picture of the cold, hard face of our outdated
system, in spite of their reticence following some very harrowing experiences.

For years, we have seen a gradual rise in reported sexual offences. In its December 2019
report the Crime Statistics Branch of the Office for National Statistics in the UK said that these
increases over there are due to recording improvements in England and Wales for sexual
185 offences, harassment and stalking. England has had its last sex offences update in place since
2003; ours, here on the Isle of Man, was 27 years ago.

190 Still, the legislation was not enough and a report in 2014 spotted over there the need for a
culture change across the piece, a shift in thinking across the criminal justice system when 26%
of sex offences were still not recorded by Police. It prompted an investigation assessing 43
forces in England and Wales based on police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy, and it
reported inspection results allow them to show how the service provided by forces will be
variable between areas and sometimes to a very significant extent.

Heavy guidance and training will be needed if this legislation is passed, colleagues.

195 The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019 showed 2.9% of adults aged 16-59 years were
victims of sexual assault in the last year, men and women. An ONS 2018 report showed that the
majority of victims were female. Women were nearly four times more likely than men to have
experienced sexual assault, and fewer than one in five reported their experience of rape and
assault by penetration to the Police, indicating that they never end up in the criminal justice
system there. Over 20% of those did not want to go to court. Over 10% did not think the Police
200 would be sympathetic, and a staggering 33.2% did not think that they could help.

205 Whilst these statistics are from England and Wales, the Chief Constable of the Isle of Man
Constabulary has been clear that in the Manx context, whilst sexual offences as a proportion of
all offences may be relatively low, the harm inflicted on the lives of individuals, their friends and
families, is enormous. That level of harm should not be underestimated. That is one reason why
the modernisation of sexual offences legislation in this Island is so important.

I would like to stress that although more women report sex offences than men, that is not to
say that this is in any way a Bill to address violence against women and children alone. This is a
Bill to address an imbalance of power between victims of abuse and those who commit these

210 offences. This has for too long been in the hands of those committing harm. This Bill and its
210 sister Bills seek to address that imbalance of power.

Sexual offences and the release of obscene publications are most harmful and they leave
victims bereft of self-confidence and self-worth. These are not – I repeat, they are *not* –
damaged individuals. They are strong people who have not the tools granted by society to put
that past securely behind them: no fair, robust criminal justice system.

215 Over to the detail, and this legislation is, as you know, interlinked with the Domestic Abuse
Bill 2019 and the Justice Reform Bill, and all three look to reform and update the criminal justice
system entirely on the Isle of Man. It is helpful for these pieces of legislation to be considered
together as one piece in how they interact together and work in conjunction with other pieces of
legislation, as well as separately, in their respective parts.

220 This is based on the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in the UK. Concepts in this Bill have also been
drawn from Scotland and Australia. It has been altered and updated to some significant degree,
so that it is reflective of society today, now, here and internationally. It places all legislation
relating to sex offences into one single Act reflecting changes to the acceptability of behaviour
since the previous legislation was introduced – that is 27 years ago.

225 The 1967 Sexual Offences Act was replaced by the 1992 Act and this is twinned with the
Obscene Publications and Indecent Advertisements Act 1907. Yes, you heard that right. The
Constabulary are desperate for change here. In addition to this, we have provisions looking to
reinforce the existing Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010 in extraterritorial
provisions and the reporting of suspected offences.

230 It is imperative that, as criminal law, this legislation is fair and balanced.

One key issue in any Bill that addresses sex offences and obscene publications is consent – a
person’s capacity to make a choice, one that cannot be implied, but proved in a courtroom. This
is about body autonomy.

235 There are 14 Parts in this Bill. Part 1 defines a child as a person under the age of 16, unless
specified otherwise, and we will, no doubt, likely debate consent and ages of consent later as we
move toward the clauses stage.

240 Part 2 deals with the act of rape, penetration, sexual assault, child sex offences and
grooming. You will find the wording in these areas to be very extraordinarily straightforward to
ensure that the courts and a jury understand the law beyond any reasonable doubt. It is also
concerned with abuses of positions of trust and familial child sex offences. At times, these are
the most difficult cases, clouded by denials and feelings of betrayal. It talks about mental
disorder, and care workers. The Bill tackles offences against sex workers – arguably the oldest
profession in the world, and legal on the Island. However, loitering and soliciting are offences
here, and so is the keeping of a brothel. Offences relating to the indecent images of children
245 recognise the changing habits of abusers online and the changing demand for these images. You
will see use of new terms like ‘pseudo-image’, and the commissioning and online circulation of
these images is being recognised here for the first time. Regarding reporting, similarly to the
update to the 2010 Female Genital Mutilation Act, reporting by teachers, social care workers,
and healthcare professionals becomes mandatory. This strengthens our information sharing to
250 protect innocents by defining confidentiality boundaries.

Part 3 is about publicly displayed images and exempts art galleries and performance-related
images or films so that our artists are not subjected to unfair criminal sanctions.

255 Part 4 concerns itself with the very serious matter of extreme pornographic imagery,
including commissioning of such revolting images and films. Repeated viewing of these images
online, be they downloaded or streamed, are proved to encourage offences, which is why it was
felt appropriate to make a separate offence for possession of such material.

Part 5 tests the obscenity on publications and advertisements.

Part 6 deals with voyeurism and recording images without consent, including what are
popularly termed as ‘up-skirting’ and ‘revenge porn’. This Bill calls offences such as this ‘image-

260 based sexual abuse'. They have serious consequences for victims and the Department believes that they cannot be underplayed.

Part 7 gives the Constabulary powers to issue closure notices on premises used as brothels or in the commission of pornographic offences or child sexual offences.

265 Part 8 drew some attention in the House of Keys and will no doubt be debated in this place. It concerns the anonymity of victims, defendants and witnesses by the press, from arrest to the conclusion of court proceedings. An amendment was put to Keys to remove defendants from this Bill. Naturally, though, this anonymity is not unconditional though it can be set aside on application to the High Bailiff or the Deputy High Bailiff by the Constabulary, or the prosecutor on application to the court, or by the court on its own motion if it is in the public interest or to
270 encourage additional victims to speak out. This was agreed, not to curtail freedom of the press but with respect to the small community we live in, as we cling to the phrase 'innocent until proven guilty' because sex offence allegations have long-term repercussions, but most certainly this move should not give way to the idea that rape victims make false allegations.

275 Part 9 addresses myths exactly like that. The Department believes the Bill provides a deterrent from myths about rape, sexual assault and sexual offences by giving blunt guidance regarding restrictions to evidence and questioning that spotlights a complainant's sexual history, and reinforces support for victims through what will always be a heart-breaking process.

In Part 10 we look at human rights balanced with the right to privacy and public protection from harms through notification requirements following convictions. For serious offences, the
280 Police can be ordered to issue these indefinitely, and travel rights: should they be monitored, or grounded? It also details police powers to enter and search offender property. Sexual harm prevention orders (SHPO) are made by the courts to curtail movements and activity necessary to protect children, men and women from sexual harms; and, although rarely used in the UK, sexual risk orders (SRO) can be applied for by the Chief Constable to protect people from a
285 defendant likely to reoffend – a preventative measure.

I move now to a subject matter most dear to me, Part 11. Members will have heard in another place a moving speech from the Chief Minister, who issued an unqualified apology to gay men convicted of same-sex offences under previous Manx laws. This Bill sees men convicted of consensual homosexual offences pardoned and saw amendments in another place to protect
290 people against any coercion into gender reassignment therapy. After numerous conversations with Mr Lee Vorster from the Manx Rainbow Association, as a journalist at Manx Radio I was looking for a story and called the Minister of Home Affairs in the last administration. I asked: 'Turing's Law in the UK – is it possible to make the change here?' and with confidence and conviction, one of the Minister's last departmental instructions in that administration was to ask
295 his legislative manager to ensure that the amnesty covered in the Police and Crime Act 2017 in the UK was covered within this Bill, and since then the Department has taken the Scottish approach following great debate on the way forward, after consultation with the public. The automatic pardon is given only to those who were convicted of offences that are no longer illegal, which is right and proper. By past and present Ministers and departmental Members at
300 Home Affairs taking that initiative, our Sexual Offences Bill brings this pardon in the framework used against those who were convicted unjustly for nothing more than having the courage to be who they are and love who they love.

From one just correction to our criminal law to another, Part 13 speaks of female genital mutilation and our 2010 Act that I spoke of earlier. Brought in the UK in 2003, this Act was
305 updated by Scotland in 2005 and the UK not long afterwards. We did not recognise this when the Bill was brought before the Branches in 2010, and so we add reporting and extraterritorial provisions into the legislation to bring it up to date and link it firmly with sexual offence law.

Last, but by no means least, is the issuing of sentencing guidelines in relation to the parts in this Bill. The Department has indicated guidelines will be drawn up sparingly and only after
310 careful consultation with interested parties. However, one matter will be attended to early on

and that relates to guidelines for child image cases. More information will be given on this when the clauses stage is reached, or before then if Hon. Members wish to hear more.

Now, Mr President, it is only left for me to thank Hon. Members for bearing with me in what I know is a lengthy speech, and I offer my service to them entirely in the discovery of answers to any questions that they may have.

I would like to move that the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill be read for the first time.

The President: Thank you, Hon. Member.
Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson: Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane.
I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The President: I call on the Hon. Member of Council, Mrs Sharpe.

Mrs Sharpe: Thank you, Mr President.

I would like to thank the hon. mover, Miss August Hanson, for all her hard work on this Bill. I know she has devoted many hours to it, along with the hon. mover in another place, Dr Allinson, and the various officers at the Department of Home Affairs.

By nature of the fact that the Bill seeks to update both the Sexual Offences Act 1992 and the Obscene Publications and Indecent Advertisements Act 1907, it is a broad-reaching piece of legislation, tackling a number of areas which needed legislative attention in order to reflect relatively recent moral, ethical and technological changes in our society.

In particular, I thoroughly welcome Part 11 of this Bill, referred to by the hon. mover, which deals with pardons and disregards for certain offences. For many of us there is a deep sense of shame that our Island could have continued to criminalise love between men decades after the UK recognised the brutality of such legislation. Although it has taken far too long to reach this stage, I do hope there may be some people on our Island who will benefit from having the criminal records which were so wrongly imposed upon them removed.

So, I do welcome this Bill, for a number of reasons; however, there is one part which I hope some Hon. Members might agree is worth closer examination. I am talking here about Part 8, which deals with anonymity of victims and others. Currently in the Isle of Man the anonymity of any alleged or proven victim of rape or other offences is covered by the 1992 Sexual Offences Act. The same right to anonymity is found in the UK Sexual Offences Act and recent high-profile cases have seen newspapers and members of the public fined, in the UK, for revealing the identity, either in print or on social media, of victims of rape. Part 8 of the Bill before us seeks to extend this right of anonymity to anyone who is suspected or accused of an offence under this Bill. In another place the argument was made that on a small Island such as ours there can be serious long-term repercussions for anyone mentioned in a court report who is implicated in a sexual offence.

I do, of course, understand this argument and I acknowledge that if the name of a person who has been suspected of a sexual offence is known ahead of any trial, regardless of the outcome of the trial the rest of that person's life is likely to be very difficult indeed – and yet the media can name anyone charged with an offence, whether it is a sexual offence, a murder, or any other offence, and will continue to do so unless a reporting restriction is imposed or there is a risk of jigsaw identification. That is the system we have and it is one which has evolved over many years of the media working together with the courts in order for public justice to be carried out.

It is possible that society has now reached a point where the public feel that it is wrong to publicly name anyone who is charged with an offence unless that person is found to be guilty, but I would argue the freedom of the press is a different subject for a different day and it is not a

365 subject which belongs in this Bill. What the public regarded as abhorrent 40 or 50 years ago is no longer found to be abhorrent. At one time, being illegitimate or being a divorcee was regarded as shameful – not so now; consenting male homosexual acts were illegal – not so now. So, I would argue if Part 8 remains as it is and it becomes illegal to name a person charged with a sexual offence, what are we, as legislators, to do in the future every time society decides that being associated with a particular crime will ruin a person’s life?

370 Forty years ago, there were people around who were colloquially said to have been caught ‘fiddling with little boys’. So little was understood at that time about child sexual abuse, the physical and the future psychological implications, that for a person to be associated with such a crime was not regarded as seriously as it is today. Therefore, history has taught us that in 10 or 20 years’ time there will be other crimes which society will decide are abhorrent, and as such anyone named in the media as having been charged with such crimes will also be facing a very
375 difficult future.

To conclude, I would like to ask the hon. mover if, in her opinion, the Department of Home Affairs has fully considered the future effects of setting such a precedent in Part 8 as it currently stands. And to broaden the perspective on this subject, I would like to inform the hon. mover that it is my intention, with the permission of this Hon. Council, to take evidence via virtual
380 means from certain professionals involved in the study of global press freedom and media ethics at a future sitting.

Thank you.

The President: Hon. Member of Council, Mrs Poole-Wilson.

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Mrs Poole-Wilson: Thank you, Mr President.

I also welcome this Bill as the opportunity to update and modernise this aspect of our law. Like the mover and the Hon. Member Mrs Sharpe, I particularly welcome Part 11 and its acknowledgement of the wrongful and discriminatory effect of past convictions for certain
390 historical sexual offences. In my view, this is welcome and long overdue.

At First Reading I do not propose to comment on all aspects of the Bill but just to raise a couple of areas where I believe it would be very helpful to hear more about the policy and rationale for the provisions in the Bill, and like the Hon. Member Mrs Sharpe, the first area is Part 8 of the Bill, which provides for anonymity of victims and others. I am supportive of the
395 principle of anonymity for victims of certain offences, for witnesses to certain offences and, in some circumstances, for defendants. However, the Bill provides for the defendant’s anonymity as the default position up to the point of conviction and it is this departure from our current position that I believe merits some detailed and dispassionate consideration by this Council.

The matter of striking an appropriate balance between the principle of open justice as
400 against potential harm to an individual who is accused of certain crimes but who may ultimately be acquitted is one that has been looked at in other jurisdictions, and in our neighbouring jurisdictions in most cases the balance is found to be in favour of open justice, at least after the point of charge. Recently, for example, the May 2019 Gillen Review into the law and procedures in serious sexual offences in Northern Ireland recommended no change to the practice of
405 naming the accused person once they have been charged.

In the consultation on this Bill the question posed on this matter was ‘Do you think the identity of the defendant could, in certain circumstances, be anonymised and protected from publication?’ Eighty-one per cent of respondents agreed with this statement, and indeed I would as there are certain circumstances in which it would be appropriate to retain anonymity, not
410 least to protect the identity of the complainant. But it does not follow that the default position should then be anonymity up until conviction for various crimes. My difficulty is that the very broad statement in the consultation and the judgement of which circumstances mean it might be appropriate to maintain anonymity are very likely to vary from person to person. Also, I have

415 not seen in the response to the consultation any analysis of where the balance between open justice and justification for anonymity should lie.

It may be that after close examination of this issue this Council considers that the balance in this Bill as it stands is the right one for our Island, but I would like to look at this aspect more closely before so concluding.

420 The other area of the Bill I would like to hear more about is Part 10, which deals with notifications and orders. I would like to hear from the mover in overview how these provisions of the Bill are intended to work. In particular – and I believe she referenced this in her opening remarks – I understand that these provisions are based on the UK 2003 equivalent legislation, and so I would welcome any insight she is able to provide on how the provisions have operated in the UK. In particular, I believe at the time the 2003 Act was being considered in the UK there
425 were questions raised by the then House of Commons Home Affairs Committee regarding the need for monitoring of the use of sexual harm prevention orders, so I would be interested to hear more about the use of equivalent orders in other jurisdictions and how that experience has been reflected in the provisions in our Bill.

430 Finally, there have been some calls for a disclosure scheme, and whilst I understand arguments put forward in favour of such schemes I also appreciate the arguments against them, not least the risk of individuals going underground and the challenges with trying to rehabilitate offenders. So, if when the mover is discussing the notification and orders provisions in Part 10 she can also comment on how they are considered to be sufficient to protect the public, that would also be helpful.

435 Thank you, Mr President.

The President: Thank you.
Hon. Member, Mrs Lord-Brennan.

440 **Mrs Lord-Brennan:** Thank you, Mr President.

This is a significant Bill and I thank the mover for the detail in her opening remarks.

445 Given the various issues and offences covered in the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill, it might be helpful for Members to know that I plan to focus on the following matters. In terms of the Bill, Part 3, Indecent Displays, and Part 5, Obscene Publications and Indecent Advertisements will be something that I will look at.

I am of the view that some aspects in relation to this Bill may warrant debate in this Chamber on the basis of public interest and principle. Like others, it feels to me to be appropriate to examine and debate matters relating to anonymity of victims and others and also what is known as Sarah's Law, which relates to child sex offender disclosure schemes. It is important, in my
450 view, to examine and understand positions and policy on these important matters.

The Bill contains a huge number of offences. I hope that in examining the Bill we can find that there is balance struck between the important and potentially intrusive matters, including behaviour, that may be potentially overly regulated.

455 Mrs Sharpe put it well when she talked about the Bill being far reaching, and technological advances and societal change, and I would really like to thank Mrs Sharpe for her thought-provoking contribution today and the indication of her wish to broaden perspective on this Bill in relation to particular areas.

460 In addition, I think, and I need to check but it is possible that the matter related to appropriate ages set in the Bill has indeed been flagged as something for the Legislative Council to consider. I think this perhaps came up in Department briefings but I would need to check our notes on that.

Taking a broader look, for me, I will be looking at the Law Commission review of the distribution of non-consensual images online; and again, also something from the UK, there has been work done about harassment in public places, so I will try to take a broader look by looking

465 at those areas in the context of our Bill. Protecting the public is a key element and I will try to be
looking at the Bill with that key Part in mind.

Finally – and I think we will hear this time and time again as we progress with the Bill –
education will be important on anything related to this Bill, especially as it covers matters that
are so fundamental to human behaviour and matters of social responses and criminalisation. I
470 cannot think of a plainer way to say this, but a lot of offences are created here and we cannot
assume that the public – and I am thinking particularly of young people – will be aware. We
should be mindful of that and what we are doing.

I thank the mover for her openness and willingness to assist and the officers for the
information provided in preparation for our consideration of this Bill.

475 Thank you, Mr President.

The President: Hon. Member, Mrs Maska.

Mrs Maska: Thank you, Mr President.

480 I will be brief, but I do wish to add my thanks to the hon. mover and all the team behind the
drafting of this very important piece of legislation, and also the Members in another place for all
the hard work that has gone into this.

The Bill, in so many ways, seeks to find remedies for situations that we could not have
imagined 27 years ago when the legislation was last updated. I am particularly thankful that we
485 are seeking to protect our Island community and especially our younger members who have a
grasp of modern technology beyond many people of my senior years, but with that comes the
enhanced and wider threat of what is accessible in terms of offences and potential criminal
content, so I do welcome the fact that we are attempting to bring in legislation that gives that
added layer of protection.

I also feel that Part 11 needs further scrutiny in terms of the aspects of anonymity, and also
the freedom of the press that Mrs Sharpe has mentioned is really important as well, so I look
forward to sharing with Members the scrutiny of that. I am sorry, it was an error of mine –
Part 11 is obviously the long-overdue pardoning of past offences. I know families on this Island
whose structure was absolutely decimated in past times because of matters now that are
495 considered to be part of a normal way of life, and so I welcome the inclusion of a pardon for
anyone who has been convicted in the past and I hope, as Hon. Members have expressed, that
this does give comfort to those who have had past convictions but also to families, whose
members maybe are no longer with us, who have suffered agonies in the past due to our
intolerance of what is now considered and accepted as a normal way of living.

500 I look forward with other Members to further scrutiny of this Bill and I thank the hon. mover
for bringing this forward.

Thank you, Mr President.

The President: The Lord Bishop.

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The Lord Bishop: Mr President, thank you very much indeed, and I express my thanks too to
the Hon. Member the mover and to the drafter and all who have worked on this Bill.

I think as I just reflect on the comments of hon. colleagues this morning I would wish to
endorse, I would say, everything that has been said.

510 The point made by the last speaker, the Hon. Member Mrs Maska, I think is really vital – that
there is a significant element of protection, a responsibility for which we now carry, which has
not been carried by previous generations of legislators. That is to say that the technological
advances mean that the possible exposure to deeply disturbing material is a reality for young
people growing up in our Island and elsewhere – everywhere across the world – and the duty
515 actually for protection, for due regard against the effects of that evident vulnerability to all sorts
of indecent material, is absolute for us as legislators.

The other aspects I think that strike me as being vital are the questions of judgement and of open justice against anonymity and I would hope that we look very closely at those questions regarding anonymity, which for a community of our size have a particular importance.

520 For me, Mr President, those are the salient issues of this legislation, which is an enormous, far-reaching and vital Bill.

I thank the hon. mover again and I look forward to discussion around these particular issues of protection and both anonymity and justice.

Thank you, Mr President.

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The President: Thank you, Hon. Members.

Does any other Member wish to speak before I call on the mover to reply to the debate? In that case, I ask Miss August-Hanson to kindly reply to the debate.

530 **Miss August-Hanson:** Thank you.

I thank my colleagues on Council for their comments and also for their support. It is a very emotive piece of legislation, it is quite wide-ranging and it is a bit of a legislative monster in places, but it is an incredibly important piece of legislation and I feel quite privileged to be able to work on it.

535 The Hon. Member Kerry Sharpe I will start with – and there are a number of Members who are concerned with anonymity, so I will talk to that on the whole but I thank her for her words of support in relation to the Bill, and as a journalist in the past and perhaps in a future life, I understand her concerns about reporting restrictions on the media. Anonymity – we know how that passed in another place and I do believe that it is worth discussion here in this place. I think
540 it is one of those subject matters that certainly needs to be borne out, and think that personally, in my own opinion, I believe that we have opportunity enough in Legislative Council to do that, so I would like to thank the Member for the suggestion that she bring forward experts on the global press freedoms and media ethics and I would be very happy to hear that.

545 On to the policy and rationale that Mrs Poole-Wilson was talking about – I would like to confirm that we will hear an awful lot more of that at Second Reading. On anonymity you have the same concerns, Hon. Member, and I appreciate those and will look forward to hearing more on that. Perhaps then, hopefully, you might be able to provide a little bit more information on the rationale from the Department, which essentially came about, as I said in my speech, because of the community that we live in, it being a small community, and perhaps past cases
550 have prompted that to an extent, the way that perhaps people have been treated following cases that have not necessarily concluded in them having been prosecuted for the offences. It was not an attempt to curtail the freedom of the press and that certainly was not a discussion directed at that, but it was very much in the light of the sort of ‘innocent until proven guilty’ and that link between that concept and also at the same time the way people view sex offences and
555 those who are convicted or are brought forward through that court process for sex offences. So, it will be an interesting one, I think. It is a very controversial one. It is a very interesting one to bear out.

You asked for more information on the notifications and the orders, Hon. Member, and I hope I might be able to perhaps enlighten a little bit there. As much as I can, I will do now, and anything else that you wish to ask, that you need to know, I will try and find out for you.

560 The SHPOs and the SROs are already enactments in existing law that we are operating under at the moment. They lay more specific protective measures to be imposed, for example by the court for when a person is released from custody. The SROs are preventative measures. Where the Police fear or suspect that a person might do an act of sexual harm, for example against a
565 child, the SRO would enable the confiscation of electronic devices or other restrictive protective measures. The notification is quite normal now. It enables the Police to know where a convicted person is living so that they can monitor them and ensure that they are not interfering with

victims. Nothing is perfect, but they do help the Police to protect and to monitor. If there is any more information that I can give you, I will endeavour to do so.

570 Moving on to Mrs Lord-Brennan, we have been talking about the advertisements – it will be an interesting one to discuss because I do not believe there was much discussion in the Keys, in another place, relating to that. Sarah’s Law was brought up in the Keys quite briefly but I think it is a discussion to have. It is quite like following along those same lines as being a small community here on the Isle of Man – should we or shouldn’t we be looking at putting these levels of measure in place; are we a different community here on the Island, a smaller community than the UK, or are we not; and what are the repercussions of that? And yes, it would be interesting to hear a little bit more evidence on that. And yes, harassment in public places as well. I would like to thank the Member for her support and her positive words.

575 Mrs Maska, again with anonymity I will endeavour to help wherever I can, but I will look forward to any evidence that might be presented. For families, Part 11, yes, it has been devastating and for those who are no longer with us. The intolerance that we have shown in the past to these individuals is heartbreaking, quite frankly – there is no other word for it; it is heartbreaking – and I hope that in some way, by bringing this legislation, we might rectify some of this but at least move forward, and it is comforting that this has been brought forward in the legislation that treated them so unjustly in the past, the subject matter.

580 The Lord Bishop is quite right, technological advances open up opportunities, but are those positive or negative, and the negativity which surrounds the technological advances in terms of online work and streaming, for example, and accessibility online and how it might affect families and how it might affect children is terribly concerning and we need to have legislation in place that can deal with that.

585 With that, I would like to thank all Hon. Members. I would like to thank the seconder as well, Mr Henderson, and I would like to move forward if we might.

The President: Thank you, Hon. Member.

595 I put the question that the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Bill be read for the first time. I take Council to be in agreement; if there be dissent, please indicate now. The ayes have it. The ayes have it. The motion carries.