

Submission from Owen Patrick Ferry

I am in full agreement that the convictions in relation to historic sexual offences should be expunged vis a vis the aforementioned Bill. The word pardon is an insult to those homosexual men who did absolutely nothing wrong. Consensual intercourse between two consenting adults should never have been a crime in the first place. The law was fundamentally flawed. In accordance with recent changes to the age of consent 16, the same for homosexual intercourse as for heterosexual sex then this should be applied retrospectively.

The criminal records should be expunged automatically and no person should be required to have to write to ask for their record to be expunged. It is an affront to those persecuted to be humiliated further by having to write to the Government. The Government should go through all the relevant sexual offences. It should be a fairly straight forward process through the Police National Computer (PNC). Those affected could be automatically contacted or assured that all affected can feel confident the record of such offences have been removed.