



01-405 7641 Extn

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

30 April 1986

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd Esq MP
Secretary for the Home Department
The Home Office
50 Queen Annes Gate
London SW1

NBPM

Dear Douglas,

I am sorry not to have replied sooner to your letter of the 14th March 1986 canvassing the views of colleagues on your proposals to amend the provisions in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 relating to the anonymity of persons accused of rape offences and of complainants in such cases. Unfortunately the original copy went astray and subsequently there has been some delay within my Department.

I should like to associate myself whole-heartedly with your proposal to repeal section 6 of the Act. I have long been conscious of the anomalies produced by that provision which was, as the history of it shows, ill-conceived and poorly thought out. I am equally certain that we should amend section 4 so that a complainant receives protection from the outset as was envisaged by the Heilbron Committee. Accordingly I shall await with interest the result of your further considerations as to how to avoid creating a provision which is so wide as to preclude the giving of information about an offence which ought properly to be given.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, other members of H Committee and George Younger and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Michael

Legal Procedure: Law of Rape Jan 82

