

Turing Bill

by Francis Bennion

The Alan Turing (Statutory Pardon) Bill was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Sharkey, Strategic Adviser to the Liberal Democrats, on 25 July 2012. The Bill is misconceived because the prerogative of pardon belongs to the Monarch not Parliament. The Sharkey Bill made no progress but in 2013 the Coalition Government made an equally misconceived announcement that it would not oppose it. The text of the Bill is shown below. (See also the letter by Francis Bennion published in *The Times* on 29 July 2013.¹)

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B I L L
T O

Give a statutory pardon to Alan Mathison Turing for offences under section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 of which he was convicted on 31 March 1952.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. Statutory Pardon of Alan Mathison Turing

(1) Alan Mathison Turing, who was born on 23 June 1912 and died on 8 June 1954, and who was convicted of offences under section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 (gross indecency between men) at the Quarter Sessions at Knutsford in Cheshire on 31 March 1952, is to be taken to be pardoned for those offences.

(2) This Act does not affect any conviction or sentence or give rise to any right, entitlement or liability, and does not affect the prerogative of mercy.

2. Short title and extent

(1) This Act may be cited as the Alan Turing (Statutory Pardon) Act 2012.

(2) This Act extends to England and Wales.

[3] On the web page <http://www.francisbennion.com/subject/law.htm> move the items under the heading 'Writings on the Sexual Offences Act 2003' to a separate heading to be discussed at our next meeting.

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Doc. No. 2013.019

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Any footnotes are shown at the bottom of each page
For full version of abbreviations click 'Abbreviations' on FB's website

References:

None

¹ Placed on Francis Bennion website at www.francisbennion.com/2013/018.htm.