

legal representatives to stay the proceedings, I am satisfied that there was a legal justification for his conclusions at that time.

**HOW PROSECUTORIAL CULTURE, POLICY AND LAW HAS SHIFTED IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1986 TO DATE AS FAR AS ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ARE CONCERNED**

**The Development of the Code for Crown Prosecutors**

109. Section 10 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 requires the DPP to issue guidance on the general principles that Crown Prosecutors must apply when making decisions about prosecutions, in particular the decision to charge a suspect with a criminal offence. The first Code for Crown Prosecutors was published in 1986. To date, seven editions of the Code have been produced, the most recent of which was issued in January 2013.
110. The Code is designed to be used on a daily basis by prosecutors who make decisions not on behalf of any individual or state agency, but on behalf of the public interest as a whole. In order for the Code adequately to reflect the public interest, it needs to be fair and representative of society and reflect the concerns of the criminal justice system users as well as the public, as a whole. For that reason, the Code is kept under continual review and is regularly revised to keep step with legal and social developments.
111. The preparation of each revision today includes a wide ranging public consultation. The Code of Practice in Consultation requires that prior to finalising a new version of the Code, the service must first publicly consult upon the proposals. For example, the current edition of the Code was published in January 2013 which followed a three month consultation from July 2012 to October 2012.
112. As will become clear from the information below, the Codes reflect the law as it is at that time and must reflect changes not only in the law as implemented by Parliament and as developed and explained by the Courts (in particular by the Supreme Court (formerly House of Lords), The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) and the Administrative Court), but also changes as a result of public interest concerns.