

Tekst 2

Fine mess

Self-contradiction is the hallmark of the Government's policy on sex offenders. On Tuesday, the Department of Health announced a new Bill on Mental Incapacity. Its most striking provision is the pre-emptive detention of people who have not been convicted of a crime, but are thought to have a disposition to violence or sexual assault.

On Thursday, the Home Office announced plans to build five more "rehabilitation hostels" for serious sex offenders, who would be free to come and go as they pleased. While the Department of Health was proposing to lock up people who haven't committed any crimes, the Home Office was planning to leave more of those who have "in the community".

Does one hand of government know what the other is doing? The health department's plans to lock up sexual psychopaths such as Roy Whiting, the killer of Sarah Payne, before they rape and murder children are comprehensively undermined by the Home Office's insistence that those convicted of sexual offences should be free to live with the rest of us. Labour used to promise consistent policies. What it has delivered is not "joined up" government but broken down government.

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- 2p **2** Waaruit bestaat deze "self-contradiction"?
Noem beide elementen ervan.