

These notes relate to the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 1) which received Royal Assent on 17 January 2014

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Vulnerable witnesses

Section 15 – Reporting of proceedings involving children

43. This section amends restrictions on reporting proceedings involving children in section 47 of the 1995 Act so that they apply to a person under 18, rather than under 16. Section 47 of the 1995 Act puts certain restrictions on newspapers to prevent them revealing the identity of persons under 16 who are involved in criminal proceedings (as the person against or in respect of whom the proceedings are taken, or as a witness). However, the court has discretion to dispense with these requirements if it is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so. The provisions also apply to sound and television programmes.