

*These notes refer to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c.44)
which received Royal Assent on 20th November 2003*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 12 - Sentencing

Chapter 6: Release of Prisoners on Licence

Section 248: Power to release prisoners on compassionate grounds

579. This section re-enacts section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, and sets out the procedure for releasing fixed-term prisoners on compassionate grounds. The Secretary of State may only release prisoners on these grounds if exceptional circumstances exist (for example where the prisoner is suffering from a terminal illness). In such cases *subsection (2)* requires the Parole Board is to be consulted prior to release wherever possible.