

Worksheet: The Legal Context for Gay Men in the UK (1950s)

In your group, read and discuss the information cards you have been given and answer the questions in Section 1 **and** Section 2 of this worksheet. Remember to **support** your answers.

Section 1: Recording Key Information

1. What were the three main **laws** used to criminalise LGBTQ+ people in Britain in the 1950s, and how did they work?
2. How did **entrapment** (police pretending to be interested in a same-sex relationship to trick someone into breaking the law) contribute to arrests and prosecutions?
3. Why was Alan Turing arrested in **1952**? How did the law at the time justify his prosecution?



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Section 2: Demonstrating Understanding

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11. What do you think was the **purpose of Turing's Law**, and why was it introduced decades later?

12. In what ways do you think **Turing's legacy** has helped people understand LGBTQ+ history?

Summary Questions (Write down your answer to the questions on the slide here)

The legal system, social attitudes, and government fears in the 1950s were all biased against gay men. Do you think that therefore Turing's arrest and sentencing were acceptable *for the time they happened*, even if you believe it would be wrong today?

Do you think Turing was prosecuted *only* because he broke the law? In which case, why was Arnold Murray not given the same sentence?