

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.

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ectio	on 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





4.	What punishment v	was	Turing	given	by the	court?	How	did	it	affect	his	health	and
	career?												

5. What was the **Wolfenden Report (1957)**? What recommendations did it make about homosexuality?

6. Give **two ways** that Turing's legacy has been recognised in Britain in recent years.





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ctio	n 2: Demonstrating Understanding
7.	Why do you think the UK government criminalised homosexuality in the 1950s?
8.	How might entrapment have made life more difficult for LGBTQ+ people at the time?
9.	How do you think Cold War fears affected how the government treated LGBTQ+ individuals?
10.	Why was the Wolfenden Report important, even though it didn't immediately change the law?





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) Given what you have learned about the legal system, social attitudes, and government fears in the 1950s, why do you think Turing was prosecuted?
Do you think his treatment was purely about enforcing the law, or do you think there were
deeper reasons behind his conviction?