

# **The Need for Policy Development for the Risk Management of Sex Offenders in Ireland**

**Dr Joseph Duffy**

**Summary:** Since the early 1990s sexual offending has been acknowledged as a major social issue in Ireland, however there is little or no explicit policy for the risk management of sex offenders in Ireland. This article briefly outlines the nature of sexual offending in Ireland before considering current practice in the management of sex offenders and reviewing international perspectives on managing sex offenders. Finally it explores policy dilemmas in the complex area of managing sexual offending and argues the need for the development of innovative policy in this area.