

NEW SENTENCING GUIDELINES PROPOSED FOR CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER, HEALTH & SAFETY AND FOOD SAFETY OFFENCES.

From the Chairman of Health & Safety Panel

Members should be aware that the proposed changes to sentencing guidelines may affect them. There is the opportunity to comment on the proposals. See below for details of the changes and how to comment.

The Sentencing Council published a **proposal for guidelines** which will assist judges to deal with corporate manslaughter, health & safety, food safety and hygiene offences.

Guidelines are being introduced to:

- give a specific guidance on sentencing food safety offences or non-fatal safety offences;
- cover offences committed both by organisations and individuals;
- identify appropriate fine levels for organisations;
- increase sentence levels in certain situations to ensure sentences are appropriate to the seriousness of the offence while, as required by law, taking account of the financial circumstances of the offender;
- help ensure sentences that not only punish the offender, but deter them and others from committing these crimes while removing any financial benefit they may have had from offending (fines should therefore be big enough to have a real economic impact which will bring home to the offending organisation the importance of achieving a safe environment for those affected by its activities).

The Council is seeking opinions on its proposal from people working in industry, the criminal justice system or regulatory enforcement; in particular it is interested in feedback about the approach to sentencing, the factors should make these offences more serious or less serious, the principles of sentencing in this area and sentencing levels.

It is possible to make responses and join the consultation, which started on 13 November 2014 and will run until 18 February 2015, online at www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk, by email to consultation@sentencingcouncil.gsi.gov.uk or by post to:

Office of the Sentencing Council
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand, London
WC2A 2LL

The consultation is accompanied by a resource assessment and equality impact, which can be found at www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk.

Following the consultation, a response will be published on the Council's website.