

## **Business Plan 2016/17: Mid-year update**

The Sentencing Council's Business Plan includes a commitment to review the indicative timeline for preparation and publication of guidelines on a bi-annual basis and to publish updates as appropriate. While there are no major changes to the work plan, the timing of some projects has changed.

There have been minor changes to the planned publication dates for a number of consultations and definitive guidelines. Publications scheduled for September 2016 will now be published in October 2016. The revised indicative dates are included in the table below.

There are three more significant changes to the published timetable for 2016/17:

- Publication of the definitive guideline for reduction in sentence for a guilty plea has been postponed to March 2017, following a very high number of responses to the consultation and the complexity of the issues.
- Launch of the consultation on child cruelty offences has been postponed to April 2017 following a decision to expand the scope.
- Launch of the consultation on public order offences has been postponed to July 2017 as a consequence of other changes to the work plan.

The provisional timetable for projects later in the three year plan remains subject to significant change dependent on factors such as the available resources, unforeseen complexities, consequential delays from other projects and legislative changes.

The Business Plan provided target dates for publication of research and evaluation findings. These remain broadly as scheduled, although publication of a report on research carried out in the magistrates' courts has been postponed from September to October.

## Sentencing Council Guideline Work Plan – 2016-2019\*

Guideline	Consultation period	Publish definitive guideline	Definitive guideline in force**
Imposition of Custodial & Community sentences	14 January 2016 – 25 February 2016	October 2016	February 2016
Guilty pleas	11 February 2016 – 5 May 2016	March 2017	July 2017
Youths	12 May 2016 – 3 August 2016	February 2017	May 2017
MCSG: Revision of SGC summary-only offences	19 May 2016 – 11 August 2016	January 2017	May 2017
Knife/ offensive weapon possession	Early October 2016 – January 2017	July 2017	October 2017
Breach of orders	Late October 2016 – January 2017	September 2017	January 2018
Manslaughter, including revision of SGC provocation guideline	February 2017 – May 2017	January 2018	April 2018
Stalking /harassment and other offences	March 2017 – June 2017	March 2018	July 2018
Overarching Principles: Domestic Abuse <sup>1</sup>	March 2017 – June 2017	March 2018	July 2018
Child Cruelty and assaults on a child	April 2017 – July 2017	February 2018	June 2018
Public order	July 2017 – October 2017	June 2018	October 2018
Terrorism offences	September 2017 – December 2017	September 2018	January 2019
Arson / criminal damage	December 2017 – March 2018	November 2018	February 2019
Cybercrime/ online offences <sup>2</sup>	December 2017 – March 2018	November 2018	February 2019
Revision of SGC either-way offence guidelines <sup>3</sup>	January 2018 – April 2018	December 2018	March 2019
Attempt Murder	May 2018 – July 2018	April 2019	July 2019
Overarching Principles: Seriousness	July 2018 – October 2018	June 2019	September 2019
Motoring (death/injury) <sup>4</sup>	September 2018 – December 2018	July 2019	October 2019
MCSG: New summary-only guidelines	December 2018 – March 2019	September 2019	December 2019

\*The dates shown in this work plan are indicative and subject to change, in particular to take account of decisions to revise guidelines following an evaluation (see table 1 for more details) or to respond to an urgent request for a new guideline.

\*\*We allow a three month implementation period between publication and the definitive guideline coming into force.

<sup>1</sup> Replacing the SGC Overarching Principles: Domestic Violence.

<sup>2</sup> Title and project to be confirmed following a decision on scope in early 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Firearm, carrying in public place; Vehicle licence/ registration fraud; Aggravated vehicle-taking (damage caused to property other than the vehicle in accident or damage caused to vehicle); Aggravated vehicle-taking (dangerous driving or accident causing injury); Dangerous Driving; Identity documents – possess false/another's/improperly obtained; Trade mark, unauthorised use of etc; and Witness intimidation.

<sup>4</sup> Timetable provisional pending outcome of Government review