

## **Business Plan 2023/24: 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 publication for some projects in this reporting year has changed.

Due to staffing resource pressures, some of the planned start dates for consultations later in the year have been pushed back by a few months and are expected now in early 2024.

These are:

- new guidelines for blackmail, kidnap and false imprisonment
- revised guidelines on aggravated vehicle-taking and other motoring related matters
- new guidelines for immigration offences

Further projects have been added to the business plan since its original publication:

- a new guideline on non-fatal strangulation
- new guidelines for protest offences

The provisional timetable for other projects remains subject to change dependent on factors such as the available resources, unforeseen complexities, consequential delays from other projects and legislative changes. The revised indicative dates are included in the table below.

The Business Plan provided target dates for publication of research and evaluation findings. Some of these publications have been delayed due to reprioritising resource coupled with the addition of new projects which are i) reviewing the 2018 overarching domestic abuse guideline, and ii) commissioning a follow-up to the review of evidence on effectiveness of sentencing published by the Council in 2022. The Council is also in the process of finalising for publication the reports on the user experience of online guidelines.

## Sentencing Council Guideline Work Plan (at 1 November 2023)

Guideline	Consultation period	Publish definitive guideline	Definitive guideline in force
Blackmail, threats to disclose, kidnap and false imprisonment	January 2024 – April 2024	Winter 2024	1 January 2025
Aggravated vehicle taking etc	February 2024 – April 2024	Autumn 2024	1 January 2025
Imposition	November 2023 – February 2024	Summer 2024	1 October 2024
Immigration	March 2024 – May 2024	2024	TBC
Non fatal strangulation	February 2024 - April 2024	Summer 2024	1 October 2024
Protest offences	Summer 2024	TBC	TBC
Annual miscellaneous amendments	September 2023 – November 2023	March 2024 – publication of response to consultation	Amendments will come into force annually on 1 April

In most instances we aim to bring definitive guidelines into force quarterly, on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

Miscellaneous amendments is an annual rolling programme of updates and corrections to guidelines the content of which will vary from year to year

Dates are subject to change