

## Detailed information on updates to Sentencing Guidelines

The General guideline and expanded explanations are published on the Council's website (<https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk>) on 24 July 2019 to come into force for all individual offenders aged 18 and older and organisations sentenced on or after 1 October 2019. They will also shortly be available via the app used by magistrates in court.

The *General* guideline and each individual expanded explanation will be marked as: 'effective from 1 October 2019'. On that date the SCG *Seriousness* guideline will be withdrawn.

The Council has produced a short video guide to accessing and using the *General* guideline and the expanded explanations, which is also published on its website.

The Council has worked with the Judicial College to produce training scenarios for magistrates to illustrate how the *General* guideline could be used in practice.

The following changes are published on 24 July 2019 and come into effect immediately:

- changes to the wording of medium culpability in the Theft, Robbery and Fraud guidelines
- addition of a link to the Equal Treatment Bench Book in all sentencing guidelines
- note indicating that the statutory maximum sentence has changed but is not yet reflected in a guideline (where applicable).

The following changes will be made by 1 October 2019 and come into effect immediately:

- standardisation of the presentation of maximum sentences across guidelines
- standardisation and updating of the wording relating to the 'dangerousness' provisions across relevant guidelines
- standardisation of the wording relating to credit to be given for time spent on qualifying bail
- in the remaining SGC guidelines – a drop-down box containing the list of common aggravating and mitigating factors that was previously available in the *Seriousness* guideline.

The Council is committed to keeping the digital guidelines up-to-date. The policy for making changes to digital guidelines and a log of any changes can be accessed from the updates page for [magistrates' court](#) and [Crown Court](#) guidelines.

Following the implementation of the *General* guideline and expanded explanations, the Council will monitor their impact over time.