



Press release

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PERSONAL SAFETY CHARITY WARNS SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER ACT

The personal safety charity, Suzy Lamplugh Trust today warned top management of Local companies about the **Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007**, which comes into force on Sunday (6th April 2007).

The Act means that, for the first time, companies and organisations can be found guilty of corporate manslaughter as a result of serious management failures resulting in a gross breach of a duty of care. It clarifies the criminal liabilities where serious failures in the management of health and safety – including personal safety - result in a fatality.

Chief Executive of the Trust, Steven Gauge, said:

“The new legislation should make senior managers and chief executives sit up and ask some probing questions about their health and safety management systems. A serious breach in their duty of care which leads to the death of an employee could result in the organisation facing a criminal conviction.”

“If found guilty large companies could find themselves being given unlimited fines. Beyond the initial financial loss they should consider the damage to their reputation as the act allows for publicity orders to be given which compel the convicted organisation to publicise the nature and extent of their failings.”

The Trust advises all employers to ensure that their senior management are aware of the risk and that they receive proper and adequate training which will enable them to ensure that the company is properly fulfilling their duty of care to employees.

They also need to carry out a robust review of all the organisation's safety policies and procedures.

Finally, they need to get their insurance in order; ensuring that directors and senior management have access to indemnity insurance to cover them in the event of needing legal help or assistance.

Gauge added:

"The above advice may sound obvious, but how many employers, hand on heart, are sure their personal safety policies and procedures are compliant and that they are not vulnerable to prosecution. In fact, how many employers know what the key Personal Safety issues in their organisation are?

For further advice about this issue and about training and consultancy options available to companies, contact Suzy Lamplugh Trust on 020 7091 0014 or email

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Ends

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Notes to Editors:

The Ministry of Justice leads on the Act and more information is available on its [Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 webpage](#)

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, a registered charity, is the leading charity for personal safety. The Trust works to raise awareness of the importance of personal safety in order to help people to avoid violence and aggression and live safer, more confident lives.

The Trust works alongside government, the police, the educational establishment, public bodies and the business sector to encourage safety wherever people may be at risk - in the home, at work, in public and in schools and colleges, on public transport and when travelling at home or abroad.