

- There is no longer a definitive Queen's Printers' copy of an Act of Parliament. Those advising must always have before them the latest edition of an edited copy of the Act.
- There is a distinct risk with secondary legislation that there will have occurred an inadequate scrutiny by Parliament. Unlike an Act passing through both Houses, secondary legislation often goes through on the nod, not least because there is so much of it that Parliament cannot carry out proper scrutiny.
- By the same token, there is often inadequate consultation before the implementation of secondary legislation.
- While Acts of Parliament usually receive adequate publicity at least in the serious press, secondary legislation often goes through unnoticed and consequently unpublicised.

We have taken the new edition as an opportunity to introduce new chapters on corporate homicide, bribery and corporate governance. We are sceptical as to their value in today's commercial environment. For example, there was one prosecution for corporate homicide in the three years following the Act's implementation. Was it worth the effort particularly when the existing health and safety legislation proved a more effective weapon for prosecutors? Our criticisms of these changes are made in the text.

We express our gratitude to Mary Kenny and Kate Hather at Jordans for their characteristically professional help, encouragement and understanding as this edition was going through the period of its gestation and also to Ben Johnson of Letterpart for his role as the house editor.

We have tried to state the law as at the beginning of September 2011.

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