

# Press release: South East lawyers asked to help raise competition law awareness

Around 260 law firms headquartered in the South East of England will be encouraged to share the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) easy-to-use competition law information with their small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) clients.

The information is intended to help SMEs recognise anti-competitive practices, comply with competition law and report suspicions of illegal anti-competitive activity.

The approach is part of the CMA's ongoing drive to boost awareness of, and compliance with, competition law, following the launch of its [competing fairly in business: advice for small businesses](#) materials and the South East of England is the latest region chosen as a target for the awareness-raising drive.

The consequences of breaking competition law can be very serious. Recently, a managing director of an online poster supplier was [disqualified](#) for 5 years after the company was found to have been part of an online price-fixing cartel.

Furthermore, businesses can be fined up to 10% of their annual turnover and people involved in cartels can face up to 5 years in prison.

But [research](#) shows that businesses' understanding of competition law in the area is low:

- only 59% of businesses surveyed in the South East of England knew that price-fixing can lead to imprisonment
- only 33% of businesses surveyed in the South East of England knew that it is unlawful to set the price at which others can re-sell their product
- only 7% of businesses surveyed in the South East of England had run training sessions on competition law

The CMA has also commissioned [further research](#) which revealed that most small businesses have a shared ethical sense that certain anti-competitive practices, such as price-fixing, are unfair or wrong and want to do the right thing.

Ann Pope, CMA Senior Director of Antitrust Enforcement, said:

The victims of anti-competitive activity can often be other businesses, so knowing what illegal behaviour looks like and how to report it can help small and medium-sized businesses protect

themselves.

The potential consequences of breaking the law are very serious. That is why it is important that all businesses know what to look out for and report suspected breaches to the CMA.

Legal advisers to SMEs are ideally placed to help raise awareness of competition law among their clients.

Nikki Burns, Chair of FSB Thames Valley said:

It's good to see the CMA raising awareness among small businesses of the rights they possess under competition law. Anti-competitive practices harm many small businesses across the Thames Valley and the South East.

We must create an environment where all small firms recognise and report anti-competitive behaviour and are not afraid to speak out. Helping small businesses identify all the forms that anti-competitive practices can take is a good starting point.

## Notes for editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on Twitter [@CMAgovuk](#), [Flickr](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).
2. Media enquiries should be directed to Simon Belgard ([simon.belgard@cma.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:simon.belgard@cma.gsi.gov.uk), 020 3738 6472).

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## [News story: UK Government leads Burns Night celebrations around the world](#)

Scottish Secretary David Mundell and Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan will host tonight's reception, where guests will be welcomed by bagpipes, enjoy a whisky tasting, and listen to Scottish folk singer Katy Thompson, who will perform 'My Heart is in the Highlands' and 'My Love is Like a Red Red Rose'. In addition, Ryan Hunter, 2nd year BA Acting student from at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, will recite Burns' poem 'A Mans A Man for A' That'.

### [Address to a Haggis](#)

The video shows UK Government staff and Scottish service personnel including

Major Jonny Rourke, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Mackenzie, Bombardier Steven Cunningham and Chief Petty Officer John Boyle reciting Burns' most famous work, the 'Address to a Haggis'.

Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell said:

This week the whole country will celebrate the life and work of Robert Burns, one of Scotland's greatest cultural icons. His works are justly famous right across the globe. From Ayrshire to Atlanta, and from Cumbernauld to Canberra, on Wednesday Burns' work will be celebrated in homes and Burns societies all over the world.

Burns' legacy remains relevant around the world, and as someone from Dumfries, Burns has always played an important part in my life. On Burns Night, I will be promoting Scotland's fine produce at a reception with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. And, of course, toasting the Bard with a wee dram of "guid auld Scotch."

Foreign Office minister Sir Alan Duncan said:

The clue is in the name – my father and many Duncans before us were born and brought up in Wick, Caithness, so I'll be in my Duncan tartan tonight.

Burns' enduring global influence demonstrates the impact of Scottish culture around the world and I know that Burns night will be celebrated all over – not just by British troops, embassies, aid workers and expats, but by people from many countries throughout the world. It shows us that Burns' appeal is as strong as ever.

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## [Scottish prisons admit they don't test for legal highs](#)

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- Scottish prisons admit they don't test for legal highs

25 Jan 2017



Scottish jails haven't introduced equipment to test prisoners suspected of taking legal highs, even though technology is being rolled out across other

parts of the UK.

In England, hundreds of sniffer dogs have been trained to detect new psychoactive substances along with testing in jails.

And in a white paper, the UK Government said testing was being carried out in “all prisons”.

But in a parliamentary answer to the Scottish Conservatives, chief executive of the Scottish Prison Service Colin McConnell said no such progress had been made north of the border.

He said: “The SPS does not test for New Psychoactive Substances. There are significant challenges around the detection and identification of NPS compounds and the availability of up-to-date testing kits due to the variants of such substances constantly changing.”

He added the organisation had “adopted a therapeutic approach” to the issue.

So-called legal highs are becoming increasingly prevalent across the country, with deaths and hospital admissions increasing each year.

It also emerged earlier this month that the number of prisoners caught with illegal substances had hit a seven-year high.

Shadow justice secretary Douglas Ross, who asked the Parliamentary Question, said the chances of inmates being properly rehabilitated would be hampered unless the number of new psychoactive substances finding their way into prison was dealt with.

**Scottish Conservative shadow justice secretary Douglas Ross said:**

“New psychoactive substances are a major problem in prison, and society as a whole.

“It’s therefore quite remarkable to learn there is no testing in place for these in Scottish prisons.

“This is despite the fact jails south of the border are moving ahead with this.

“People expect prisons to be absolutely secure, and are understandably angry that so many illegal items – as well as legal high substances – find their way in with such ease.

“The Scottish Government should be following England’s lead and making sure we can force these dangerous substances out of prisons altogether.”

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Below is the parliamentary response from the Scottish Government:

**24 January 2017** (Holding Reply Issued 24 January 2017)

Index Heading: Learning and Justice

**Douglas Ross (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government which new psychoactive substances the Scottish Prison Service tests for when prisoners are subject to a drugs test. S5W-05991

**Michael Matheson:**

I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) does not test for New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). There are significant challenges around the detection and identification of NPS compounds and the availability of up-to-date testing kits due to the variants of such substances constantly changing. SPS has adopted a therapeutic approach, alongside professional case management and the utilisation of existing drug testing powers to manage this evolving issue.

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**However, only yesterday, UK justice secretary Elizabeth Truss said in answer to a question at Westminster:**

“My hon. Friend is absolutely right that psychoactive substances have had a serious effect in our prisons: the prisons and probation ombudsman described them as a “game changer”, which is why we have now rolled out testing to deal with those substances. We have extra sniffer dogs to deal with them as well, and we are making progress.”

Source:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-01-24/debates/EB38F55E-717E-46D3-A0F4-B0D9B484F234/OralAnswersToQuestions>

And in a UK Government White Paper published in November on prison safety and reform, it was confirmed that hundreds of drug detection dogs had been trained to sniff-out legal highs, adding: “In September, following a successful pilot in 34 prisons over the summer, we introduced nationwide mandatory testing for specified psychoactive substances in all prisons.”

Source:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/565014/cm-9350-prison-safety-and-reform-\\_web\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565014/cm-9350-prison-safety-and-reform-_web_.pdf)

The Scottish Conservatives revealed the number of prisoners caught with illegal substances hit a seven-year high in 2016:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/01/drug-use-in-jail-hits-7-year-high/>

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# News story: Italy vs Wales rugby match in Rome: consular advice

From:

First published:

25 January 2017

Part of:

The Italy and Welsh Rugby teams will meet in Rome for their RBS 6 Nations Rugby Tournament on 5 February 2017 at 3pm.

The Consular Services of the British Embassy Rome have advice for Welsh supporters travelling to see the match.

**Travelling rugby fans normally prepare well for their trips, don't get into fights, don't overindulge, don't lose their passports and don't normally come to our attention. Keep it up!**

However, to avoid getting into trouble, here's a bit of advice:

- check that your passport is valid for your whole trip to Italy;
- make sure that you bring your [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) – this proves your entitlement to free/reduced cost health care if you need medical attention;
- the EHIC does not replace comprehensive [travel insurance](#) though, so make sure you're insured. Insurance could cover the entire cost of hospitalisation, and repatriation should that become necessary;
- keep an eye on your possessions at all times: pickpockets operate in large crowds and on most public transport.

**The emergency numbers in Italy are:**

- 112: Carabinieri
- 113: police
- 118: emergency ambulance
- 115: fire brigades

**Practical information:**

- the venue for this match will be the Olympic Stadium in Rome. Kick-off time is at 3pm, Italian time. The Stadium opens at 1pm. You should try to arrive early as access to the stadium might take some time and certainly before 2pm;
- a fan zone at Parco del Foro Italico (next to the Stadium) is open from 10am on Sunday;

- there is no parking at the Stadium so don't arrive by car;
- disabled car parking spaces are located outside the Carraia Nord, in [Largo Ferraris IV](#), where you will be directed to the Tribuna Tevere to access the Stadium;
- Italian police and stewards will conduct ticket checks and security screening. You might be required to show an original identity document. Any items that could be used as a weapon, like glass or plastic bottles, are not permitted inside the stadium;
- note also that musical instruments, large umbrellas and items of luggage are not permitted inside the Stadium;

### **How to get to the Olympic Stadium:**

- take Metro Line A to Flaminio/Piazza del Popolo and walk to the Stadium (4.5 Kms) for about 30 minutes, or you can take tram no. 2 from Flaminio which drops you close to the Stadium. Alternatively take bus 910 from Roma Termini, get off at Piazza Antonio Mancini, then walk through the park, over the Bridge Duca D'Aosta and you'll see the Stadio Olimpico;
- combined Metro and bus/tram tickets can be purchased from most tobacconists, bars, or vending machines at metro stations and major bus stops and cost €1.50 each. Please note that bus and tram tickets must be stamped in the small yellow ticket machine found on buses and trams as soon as you start your journey. Failure to do so will result in a fine, if checked by an inspector.

If things go wrong and you need consular assistance, call us on +39 06 4220 0001.

Check out our [Italy travel advice](#) before you go.