

ICSA publishes new guidance note on corporate manslaughter and homicide

10 October 2008: The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) has today published a new guidance note on the issues surrounding corporate manslaughter and homicide. The note follows the introduction of the *Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007* in April this year and is designed to help directors of public and private corporations, statutory authorities and charity trustees make informed decisions in the boardroom. Under the new Act, an organisation may be liable to conviction if it can be proved that any of the organisation's activities, managed or organised by its senior managers, caused the person's death. The Act also introduces new responsibilities for the board who must be able to provide evidence that they are controlling, monitoring and reviewing their health and safety systems.

David Wilson, ICSA's Director of Policy and Strategy comments:

'Under the wider remit of this new Act, there are several potentially damaging outcomes for organisations and their directors if they disregard the safety of others at work. The ICSA's note provides clear guidelines to help organisations minimise the increased risk of prosecution'

The guidance note can be downloaded at
<http://www.icsa.org.uk/assets/files/pdfs/guidance/081003.pdf>

Editor's notes

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) is the qualifying body for company secretaries and a leading authority on corporate governance. It publishes guidance notes and best practice guides and through its subsidiaries provides events, information and training, boardroom performance evaluation and dedicated software. The ICSA has 36,000 members worldwide and is represented in over 70 countries.