

Name

Publication consent

Publish response only (without name)

Q1) Do you agree or disagree with the Council's approach to the distinction between a 'principle' and a 'purpose' of sentencing?

Agree

Please provide any reasons for your response.

I generally agree with the approach but there is no mention of the victim.

Q2) Should there be an overarching principle of "fairness and proportionality"?

Yes

Please provide any reasons for your response.

Again, I agree in general but the victim's feelings and views must be taken on board. Mitigating factors e.g pleading guilty at the earliest opportunity must be assessed to ensure the guilty party is simply not doing this to reduce punishment

Q3) Are the supporting principles which underlie the overarching principle of fairness and proportionality (as listed at paragraph 2(i)-(vi)) appropriate?

No

Please provide any reasons for your response.

The same weight seems to be given to the circumstances of the offender and the victim. The circumstances of the victim should be paramount

Q4) Are the supporting principles expressed clearly and accurately?

Yes

Please provide any reasons for your response.

Yes, but I don't necessarily agree with them

Q5) Are there any other supporting principles which should be included at paragraph 2?

Short and long term effects on the victim and their family,

Q6) Do you agree or disagree with the approach to the purposes of sentencing as set out at paragraph 4 of the draft guideline?

Agree

Please provide any reasons for your response.

Yes, but this must include details of the sentence. e.g. if custodial, how much of the sentence is the criminal likely to serve and also if a community order, then what and where will the criminal be doing to "pay back" or will he simply give a lame excuse and not turn up as many seem to know how many times they can fail to show with no further action taken against them

Q7) Are the purposes as listed at paragraph 5(a)-(d) appropriate?

Yes

Please provide any reasons for your response.

I think that more consideration should be given to the restorative aspect of the justice system

Q8) Are the purposes expressed clearly and accurately?

No

Please provide any reasons for your response.

Surely the section below suggest that this is a waste of time -
13.It is assumed that the Principles and Purposes of Sentencing guideline will influence judicial approaches to sentencing and increase consistency in approach, but that any changes to sentencing outcomes will be neutral on average.

Q9) Are there any other purposes which should be included?

No but surely all of the purposes listed cannot have equal weight.

Q10) Do you agree or disagree with the approach set out at paragraph 6 of the draft guideline in relation to the efficient use of public resources?

Agree

Please provide any reasons for your response.

I agree with the statement in support of this approach

Q11) Is it appropriate to consider efficient use of public resources during the sentencing process?

Yes

Please provide any reasons for your response.

Yes but only to a degree and it should not be the main factor

Q12) Do you agree or disagree that the guideline would lead to an increase in public understanding of how sentencing decisions are made?

Disagree

Please provide any reasons for your response.

I'm not really sure that it will. It seems, on occasions, that those who dispense justice are far removed from the general public. I am also sure that the vast majority of the public will not even know about this consultation.
What has been done to promote coverage?

Q13) Do you agree or disagree that the guideline would lead to an increase in public confidence in sentencing?

Disagree

Please provide any reasons for your response.

It would also be a public perception that the judiciary don't like being told what to do, including being given more rigid guidelines.

Q14) What costs (financial or otherwise) do you see arising from the introduction of this guideline, if any?

I don't really know.

Q15) What benefits do you see arising from the introduction of this guideline, if any?

Not convinced there will be any.

Q16) Would you like to make any other comments in relation to any matter arising from this consultation?

No.