

Health and Safety

Regulation affects most businesses in one form or another, whether through legislation relating to health and safety, trading standards, data protection, financial services or environmental issues.

The regulators have wide powers to search premises, obtain witness statements, impose sanctions on businesses and senior managers and prosecute individuals and companies for breaches of regulatory legislation.

The trend of growth in regulation is likely to continue and businesses should take steps to minimise the risk of prosecution. These should include reviewing existing policies, procedures and documentation to ensure they are fully compliant and setting up a contingency plan to cover the situation if and when things go wrong.

An important part of any contingency plan is to secure immediate access to legal representation when something goes wrong. However, it is our experience that businesses often seek legal assistance when it is too late. This inevitably means that we then have to try and rectify the position for the client, which can often prove difficult and expensive.



Prosecution risk ...
...don't take chances

Health and Safety at Work

In order to encourage our clients to instruct us sooner as opposed to later we can offer a free hotline in relation to health and safety and regulatory matters.

We can also arrange legal representation at very short notice to ensure that any investigation is conducted fairly and that our client's position is put across in the best possible light at the earliest opportunity.

However, should this not prove to be enough to avoid prosecution we can then provide effective legal representation throughout the court process.

Our regulatory team are able to deal with a variety of areas within health and safety matters including:

- Health & Safety
- Food Safety
- Trading Standards
- Public Inquiry Hearings

More about our Health and Safety specialist



Dean Parnell
Partner

Dean is joint head of the Dispute Resolution Department has considerable experience of representing companies during health & safety investigations and defending companies who may face prosecution for breaches of health & safety law.

Dean has acted for national organisations through to owner managed business in a broad range of health & safety prosecutions by local authorities and the health and safety executive. Dean is also able to advice on regulatory prosecutions involving other areas such as food safety and trading standards.

Dean is recognised in the Legal 500 and feedback provided by clients includes:

Clients Comments:

- "first and foremost a problem solver who will often think outside the box"
- "an excellent lawyer"
- "will always fight your corner"
- "genuinely cares about delivering the best possible result"
- "we regard him as an essential part of our team"

Legal 500 Comments:

- Dean Parnell is 'a great legal analyst'
- The highly regarded, 'down-to-earth' Dean Parnell heads the team at Sydney Mitchell LLP.
- "sensible and commercially astute" and "commands high respect locally"
- In the Dispute Resolution section as working 'tirelessly for his clients'
- Dean 'gets to the nub of issues fast'
- 'highly rated'

Contact us at Sydney Mitchell LLP

Offices in **Birmingham, Shirley and Sheldon**

Cavendish House
39 Waterloo Street
Birmingham
B2 5PP
0121 698 2200

Chattock House
346 Stratford Road
Shirley, Solihull
B90 3DN
0121 746 3300

Shakespeare Building
2233 Coventry Road
Sheldon
Birmingham B26 3NL
0121 700 1400