

# **Sentencing Advisory Panel Research on Public Attitudes to the Overarching Principles of Sentencing**

## **SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### Background

The Sentencing Advisory Panel would like to commission research into the public's view on some of the principles of sentencing for adults.

The Sentencing Guidelines Council has asked the Panel to review two existing guidelines: Overarching Principles: Seriousness and New Sentences: Criminal Justice Act 2003. Before producing its advice to the Council, the Panel will, in line with its normal procedure, publish a written consultation paper. The research will be conducted alongside the consultation paper and the results will be used to inform advice from the Panel to the Council.

The research will aim to provide an understanding of the public's view on the following:

- attitudes towards the purposes of sentencing;
- the characteristics of an offence/offender that generally should result in a custodial sentence;
- the characteristics of an offence/offender that generally should result in a community order and the type of requirements within such an order that would be appropriate;
- the relative weight that is attached to individual factors relating to the offence and offender;
- the interaction of factors relating to the offence and offender (for example whether offender mitigation can ever outweigh an aggravating offence feature);
- the extent to which the costs and comparative effectiveness of custodial and community sentences should impact on sentence selection; and
- the overall ranking of offences by attitudes towards their seriousness

## Requirements

Expressions of interest are sought from organisations that wish to tender for the research. The research will be conducted between August 2008 and December 2008 and a final research report will be expected in January 2009. Any organisation bidding for the research will be expected to meet this timetable.

In addition, bidders will need to be able to show that they can:

- specify and conduct a survey of a representative sample of adults across England and Wales;
- specify and conduct appropriate qualitative research;
- identify and provide appropriate statistical analysis of the survey findings;
- demonstrate some knowledge and expertise in sentencing in order to be able to understand the policy context of the research and the Panel's requirements and how these translate into research questions;
- identify a team able to devote a sufficient number of days to the research and ensure staff capacity at the right level;
- produce a final report which is clear and concise and in a style appropriate for the main audience of sentencers and non-research stakeholders; and
- show that the timetable can be met.

## Submitting an expression of interest (EOI)

If you are interested in tendering for the research please submit an EOI by no later than **27 June 2008**. It should be no more than 2-3 pages in length. The EOIs will be evaluated against the ability to meet the requirements set out above. Up to four organisations will be invited to tender.

Please email your EOI to:

[Anjali.tiwari@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Anjali.tiwari@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)