

Not for publication before Monday, March 31 2008

Issued by Mattison Public Relations

Red tape day – even more new rules and regulations for businesses to absorb than last year

- ∞ Businesses need to get to grips with 82 new statutes and statutory instruments coming into force on April 6th

82 new statutes and statutory instruments that impact on businesses will be implemented on Red Tape Day, April 6, a 12% increase on the 73 that came into force last year, says Sweet & Maxwell, the leading legal information providers.¹

Alina Lourie, Director of Enterprise-wide Solutions at Sweet & Maxwell, comments: “The Government’s promises to cut back on the amount of red tape that businesses have to deal with have still not born fruit. In fact, companies and their lawyers are having to deal with more regulations and new laws this year than last.”

During the week commencing March 31 there will be 128 new statutes and statutory instruments introduced that will impact on business, compared to 81 introduced around “Red Tape Day” last year.

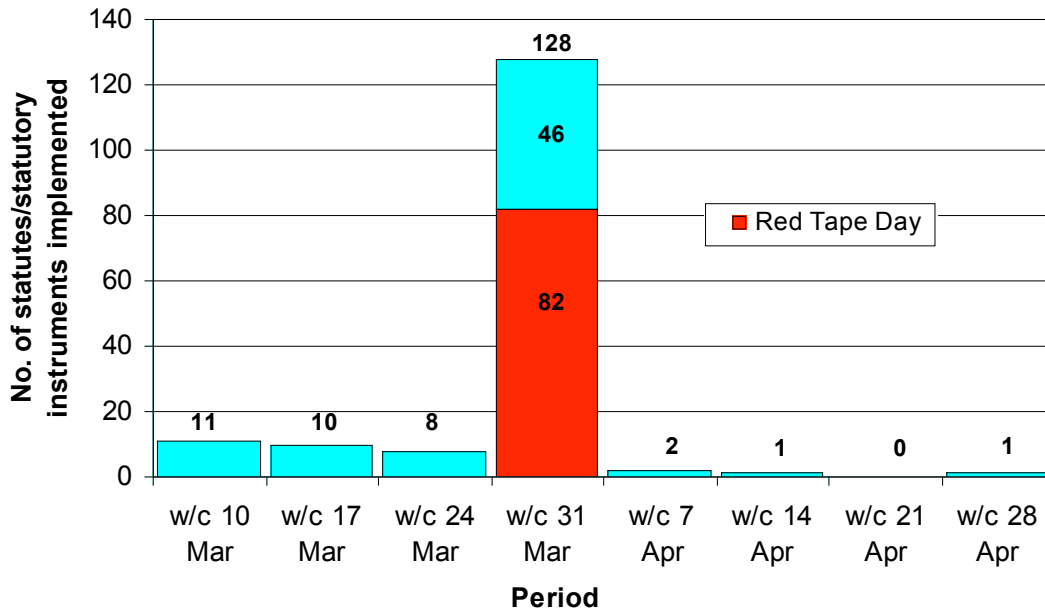
Some of the major changes introduced on April 6th that businesses will need to be aware of include:

- ∞ The introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter Act
- ∞ Changes to the Sex Discrimination Act in relation to pregnancy, maternity leave and harassment
- ∞ The extension of the Occupational Pensions Schemes regulations - organisations with more than 50 employees must consult with members of pension schemes before making changes to future pensions arrangements
- ∞ New Employment Equality regulations relating to employee benefits based on the length of service
- ∞ New provisions for employment agencies to protect the rights of agency workers

The table below illustrates the surge in statutes and statutory instruments affecting commercial law introduced around “Red Tape Day”.

¹ Information taken from Enterprise-wide Solutions at Sweet & Maxwell

**Statutes and statutory instruments affecting business-
implemented March/April 2008**
(excludes non-commercial law)



ENDS

Notes to editors:

Sweet & Maxwell (<http://www.sweetandmaxwell.thomson.com>) is a leading provider of information and solutions to the legal and professional markets in the UK and Ireland. With over 200 years of history and heritage in legal publishing, Sweet & Maxwell offers detailed and specialist knowledge, understanding, interpretation and commentary across a wide range of subjects in a variety of formats to meet customers' needs - books, journals, periodicals, looseleaves, CD-ROMs and the online services Westlaw UK and Lawtel. Sweet & Maxwell is part of The Thomson Corporation.

The Thomson Corporation (www.thomson.com) is a global leader in providing essential electronic workflow solutions to business and professional customers. With operational headquarters in Stamford, Conn., Thomson provides value-added information, software tools and applications to more than 20 million users in the fields of law, tax, accounting, financial services, scientific research and healthcare. The Corporation's common shares are listed on the New York and Toronto stock exchanges (NYSE: TOC; TSX: TOC).

Press enquiries:

Jane Lougher or Nick Mattison
Mattison Public Relations
Tel: 020 7645 3636

Peter Wylie
Corporate Communications Manager

Sweet & Maxwell
Tel: 020 7393 7000