

# Sentencing Council

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14 May 2018

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2018.

The Council did consider the recommendation from the Committee to conduct further research, over and above that already submitted in May 2016, on the impact of the inclusion of lack of maturity as a mitigating factor in sentencing guidelines but concluded at the time that resources did not permit it.

Recently the Council has been considering the issue of maturity and the possibility of providing further guidance on this issue. In June the Council plans to issue a consultation on a general guideline that will contain an expanded explanation of the 'age and/or lack of maturity' factor and will seek views on this guidance. During the consultation period the Council will conduct research interviews with sentencers to explore the likely impact of the guidance.

Unfortunately the Council's very limited research budget means that it is unlikely that it will be able to conduct or commission larger scale bespoke research in this area. Despite accepting a budget cut of six per cent for 2018-19, we have heard in the last few days that a further five per cent cut is proposed. If implemented that would cut our available resources (after fixed costs and prior commitments) by 56 per cent.

Kind regards,  
LJ Treacy

**LORD JUSTICE TREACY**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE SENTENCING COUNCIL**