

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | May 2024 | Issue 32



## Introduction

Hello and welcome to May's edition of Safeguarding news. Don't know about you but I am hoping that the persistent rain will soon give way to more prolonged periods of sunshine. Summer is hopefully around the corner, and we can all start to look forward to holidays, festivals, and barbeques.

I am writing this, having just finished watching Baby Reindeer on Netflix. An addictive, absorbing, thought provoking but also a challenging watch. Highlighting the impact of stalking and sexual abuse. I would recommend it for viewing if you haven't watched it but make sure you have something altogether more light-hearted to watch after.

We, once again have links to a couple of stories that have broken in the news since the last edition. I hope you find them interesting and spark a bit of debate. I seem to say this all the time but being aware, being educated and sparking a debate helps to ensure we all stay safe.

Enjoy the sunshine!



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 – Gun Laws and Licensing

Article 2 – Amendment to the criminal justice bill

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## Article 1 – Gun Laws and Licensing

In February, a mass shooting following a parade and rally celebrating the Kansas City Chiefs Superbowl win led to 1 person losing their life and at least 21 others injured. This was just the latest in seemingly a regular stream of horrific news stories that emanate from the US. Each time there are calls for changes to the gun laws in the US which are ingrained in America society through the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to the US constitution. In DC V Heller on June 26, 2008, the US Supreme Court explored the meaning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. They found that the amendment guarantees an individual the right to possess firearms regardless of whether they are part of the state militia and to use firearms for traditionally lawful purposes, including self-defence within the home.

What are your views on the US gun laws and do you think they need to be changed? Do you think a change could offer greater protection for US citizens, protection from incidents such as the one in February and many other previous incidents?



In the UK we have some of the toughest gun laws in the world. Our firearms policy is based on the fact that firearms are dangerous weapons, and that the state has a duty to protect the public from misuse. Indeed, gun ownership is a privilege and not a right as is the case in the US. In the UK firearms offences are a small proportion of our recorded crime.

You may be interested to read the following article from the BBC in April [Gun licensing: Partners to be quizzed in new screening - BBC News](#). This is talking about a new initiative being undertaken by 5 police forces across England and Wales. The initiative sends questionnaires to the partners of applicants for firearm possession which are used as part of the application process. Is this just an example of how we must embrace and accept differences in national cultures or is it time for change in the US?

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## Article 2 – Amendment to the criminal justice bill

An amendment to the criminal justice bill is being made that will make it an offence for anyone to create a sexually explicit deepfake image. A deepfake image is an image or recording created which has been convincingly altered or manipulated to misrepresent someone. This is regardless of whether the intention is to share the image. An offence will be committed if there is an intention to cause alarm, humiliation, or distress to the individual. The change is being brought in due to the large increase in cases where the use of software, including AI enables a digital image or video to be altered. Faces of individuals can be replaced with someone else's for example. The rapid advance in technology does seem to lead to governments and legislators constantly having to play catch up with changes to legislation to regulate a market, where maybe sometimes ethics are not a big enough part of decision making? As part of your apprenticeships at level 3 and level 4 you will learn or have learnt about the importance of understanding the environment when making decisions and how the environment has impacts on a business. Just think about your PESTEL or SWOT analysis. Is technology advancement too rapid? What do you think? [Creating sexually explicit deepfakes to become a criminal offence - BBC News](#)



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Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a>
NHS (Urgent medical conditions)	Phone: 111
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	Phone: 999
PREVENT (Suspicious activity, terrorism, radicalization)	Phone: 0800 789 321
RUN. HIDE. TELL. (Although terrorist attacks are very rare, we are not complacent about keeping you safe)	Website: <a href="http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe">www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe</a>

## Links from previous issues

Safety	<a href="#">Bartenders share the times customers used a 'safeword drink' to escape an unsafe situation.   Someecards News</a> <a href="#">'Safe words' people can use in bars and clubs if they feel in danger or uncomfortable   ITV News Central</a> <a href="#">Advice - Cold Callers/Suspicious Activity - Cheshire Police Alert</a>
Prevent	<a href="#">"Martyn's Law" - What you need to know   ProtectUK</a>
Men's Mental health	<a href="https://www.priorygroup.com/blog/40-of-men-wont-talk-to-anyone-about-their-mental-health">https://www.priorygroup.com/blog/40-of-men-wont-talk-to-anyone-about-their-mental-health</a>
Scams	<a href="#">Take Five - To Stop Fraud   To Stop Fraud (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)</a> <a href="#">Friends Against Scams - National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative protecting and preventing people from becoming victims of scams</a>
Sexual Health	<a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/https://www.unaids.org/en/2022-world-aids-day">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/https://www.unaids.org/en/2022-world-aids-day</a> <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/</a>
Stoptober/ Vaping	<a href="https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/">https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/</a> <a href="https://www.blf.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us/stoptober">https://www.blf.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us/stoptober</a>
Grief	<a href="http://www.cruse.org.uk">www.cruse.org.uk</a> <a href="#">Support and self-care for grief - Mind</a> <a href="#">Get help with grief after bereavement or loss - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a>
Modern Slavery	<a href="#">Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency</a> <a href="#">The Issue — Human Trafficking Foundation</a>
Disability Rights	<a href="#">Human Rights: Our Rights - Disability Justice Helplines   Disability Rights UK</a>

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Dementia

<https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/alzheimers-disease/>

<https://www.dementiauk.org/about-dementia/young-onset-dementia/>

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