



Amendment of section 2 Suicide Act 1961

We are pleased to see that the Government has announced its intention to amend the language of section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961.

In our report ⁺ on assisting and encouraging crime, we thought there was a strong case for updating the language of section 2 of the Suicide Act. The section currently says that a person who “aids, abets, counsels or procures the suicide of another, or an attempt by another to commit suicide” commits an offence. It would be more easily understood if it used the words “assists or encourages” instead.

⁺ Our report is “Inchoate Liability for Assisting and Encouraging Crime” (2006) Law Com No 300 Cm 6878 – available on our website at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/docs/lc300.pdf>.

The Government’s response is available on the MoJ website at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease170908a.htm>.

Law Commission
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