

UK Bribery Act

What This Means For Corporate Hospitality

The [UK Bribery Act](#) will come into force in April 2011. Yet another law for Event Managers to be concerned about and poses the questions how lavish corporate hospitality can be before it is deemed to be a bribe?

The Act will repeal the existing bribery and corruption law and create four new corruption offences:

- 1) General offence of paying a bribe ~ Offering, promising or the giving of a bribe
- 2) A general offence of receiving a bribe ~ Requesting, agreeing to receive, or accepting a bribe, either in the UK or abroad, in both the public and private sectors
- 3) An offence relating to the bribery of foreign officials in order to obtain or retain business
- 4) A new corporate offence of failing to prevent bribery ~ commercial organisations' which fail to prevent a bribe being paid by those who perform services for or on behalf of the organisation. (thus capturing agents and other third party intermediaries).

The legislation goes far beyond its US counterpart – the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977 (FCPA). The UK Bribery Act's extended reach is due to the inclusion of commercial bribery, and not simply bribery of foreign public officials.

What Does This Mean For Corporate Hospitality

Here is what the Ministry of Justice had to say:

"We recognise that corporate hospitality is an accepted part of modern business practice and the Government is not seeking to penalise expenditure on corporate hospitality for legitimate commercial purposes. But lavish corporate hospitality can also be used as a bribe to secure advantages and the offences in the Bill must therefore be capable of penalising those who use it for such purposes." [Find out more](#)

All seemingly positive steps to prevent corruption, but, they raise a number of new compliance and competitive edge issues for UK companies. The Ministry of Justice will be providing [guidance](#) to commercial organisations to prevent bribery.

Read more articles on this:

See how others in the events industry are coping with the changes - [Bribery Act Effects Event Uncertainty](#)

[Bribery Act guidance on corporate hospitality a 'bureaucratic nightmare](#)

[Corporate Hospitality and The Bribery Act](#)