

REGULATORY ROUNDUP - Q1 2026

This bulletin provides a snapshot of the most significant legislative developments, regulatory changes, and enforcement decisions from January to March 2026.

● ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY (ASA) RULING

The ASA ruled that easyJet misled customers by advertising cabin-bag add-ons “from £5.99” when that price was effectively unavailable in practice, and it banned the airline from using the claim again unless it could prove the fare was genuinely obtainable across a meaningful number of flights.

● BUILDING SAFETY

On 27 January 2026, the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) became a standalone organisation and moved out of HSE. BSR will act as the building control authority for high-risk buildings (HRBs) and have the power to inspect buildings, issue compliance notices, and prosecute, including taking action against individuals within corporate bodies for failing to comply with safety requirements.

● ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Environment Agency (EA) has put together its largest ever team to strengthen its enforcement capability. The increase in enforcement action has already led to a 4% decrease in permit breaches in 2026 and is backed by the largest ever budget for water enforcement.

● HEALTH & SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

A forging company was fined £750,000 after a machinist was killed when they became entangled in a 20-metre lathe. The company failed to ban handheld emery cloth, did not guard dangerous moving parts, and had no safe system of work in place. This is the highest fine of 2026 so far.

● FOOD ADVERTISING

From January 2026, all advertisements for less healthy food and drink were banned from being shown on television before 9pm, and online at all times, in a move to reduce childhood obesity. HFSS restrictions came into force on 26 March in Wales. The difference in Wales is that the regulations do not restrict products with volume price promotions on packaging, but retailers must not apply the promotion at the point of sale.

● ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTIES

EA continue to use enforcement undertakings as a monetary penalty for environmental offences. In March 2026, a business has been made to spend £6.1m to put right damage done by a major oil spill.

● CRIME & POLICING BILL

The Bill, currently in the report stage at the House of Lords would extend the “senior manager” test of corporate criminal attribution to all criminal offences. This means corporate liability could potentially arise from environmental offences, data protection violations, computer misuse, modern slavery, human trafficking, health and safety breaches, and even sexual offences, harassment and violent crime.

● CONSUMER

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) issued its first penalty using its new fining powers to Euro Car Parks, totalling £473,000 for failing to respond, on numerous occasions, to an information request. The new fining powers for this type of breach allow the CMA to issue a fixed penalty of up to 1% of the company’s annual turnover.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

Back to Basics: Regulatory Law 101 - Compliance Essentials

Our webinar explains how to spot and prioritise key risks, and the governance and record-keeping needed to show legal compliance.

🕒 **Tuesday 12 May, 10am-11am**

[REGISTER](#)

