

The Impact of Corporate Manslaughter Legislation on SMEs in the UK Construction Industry

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The Construction Industry and its Danger

The construction industry is one of the main contributors to the UK economy and remains to be a vast source of employment. However, it is constantly considered one of the most dangerous industries due to the reported work-related fatalities and injuries.



£ 99.4 billion



2.2 million jobs



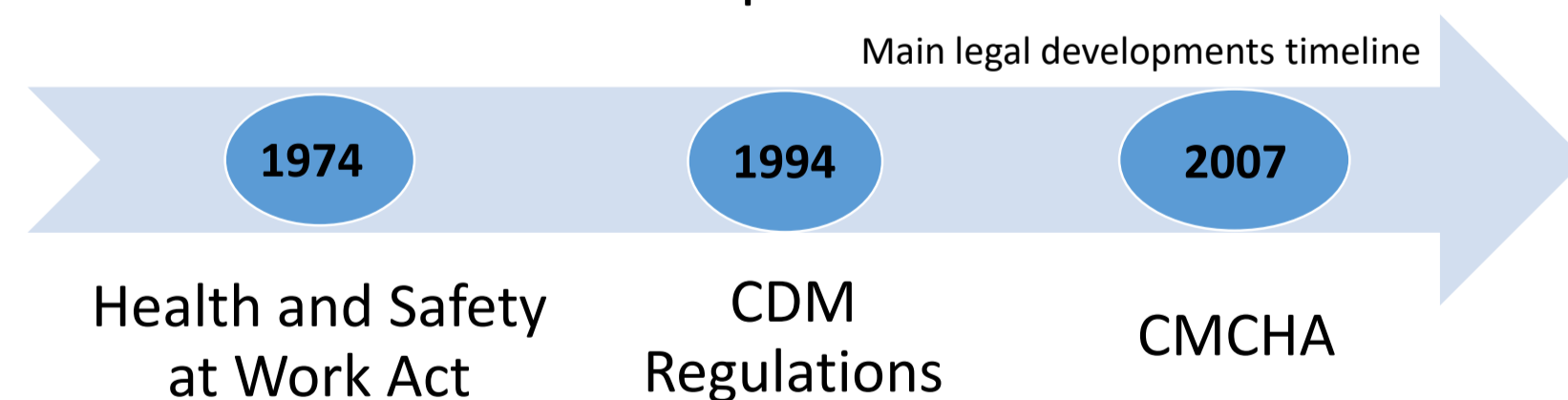
65,000 injuries
per year



43 fatalities
per year

Legal Efforts for Improvements

Over the years, the construction industry has developed legal requirements as one of the approaches to improve the health and safety performance in the workplace. In 2007, the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act (CMCHA) was passed aiming to prosecute and convict organisations responsible for the death of individuals at the workplace.



The role of SMEs



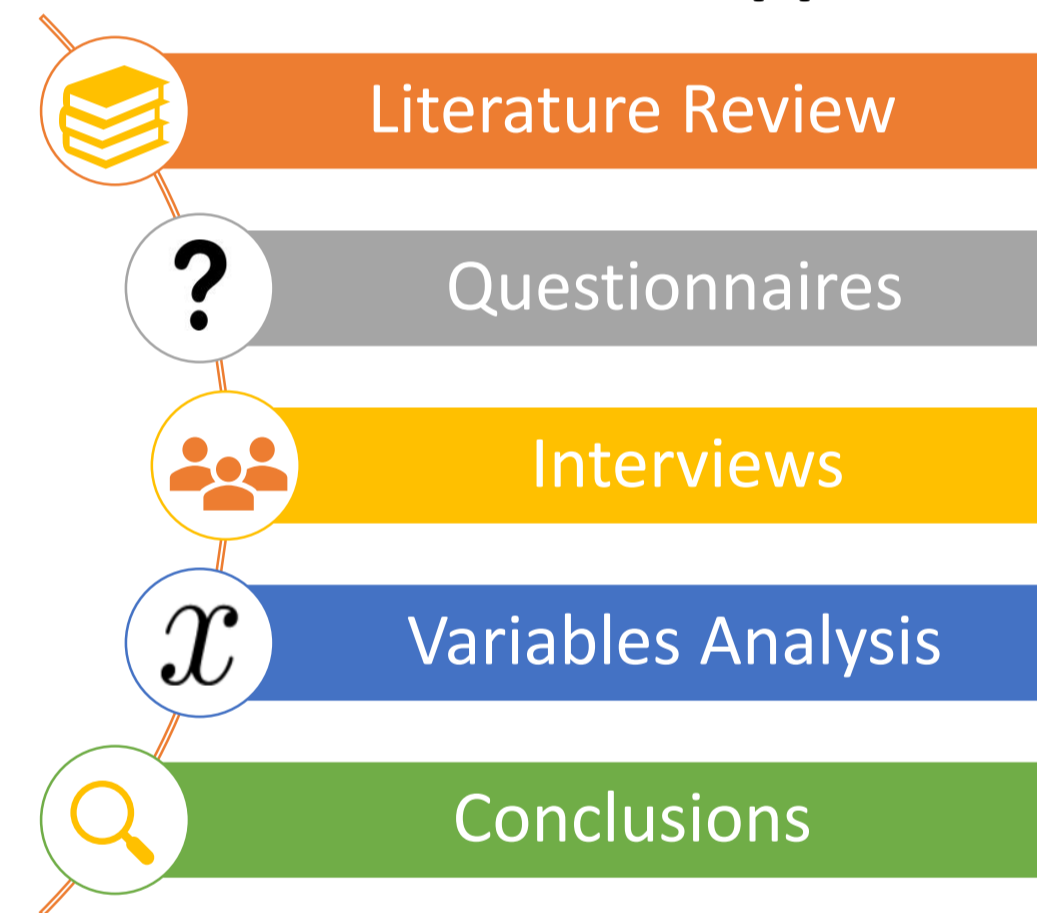
SME's represent 90% of the UK construction supply chain and accounts for over 80% of the non-fatal and fatal injuries in the industry. So far, all the convictions under the new corporate manslaughter legislation are attributable to SMEs due to failures in the way their actions are managed.

Research Aim

This research aims to analyse the impact of the corporate manslaughter legislation on the management of health and safety by SMEs in the UK construction industry and investigate areas of possible improvements.

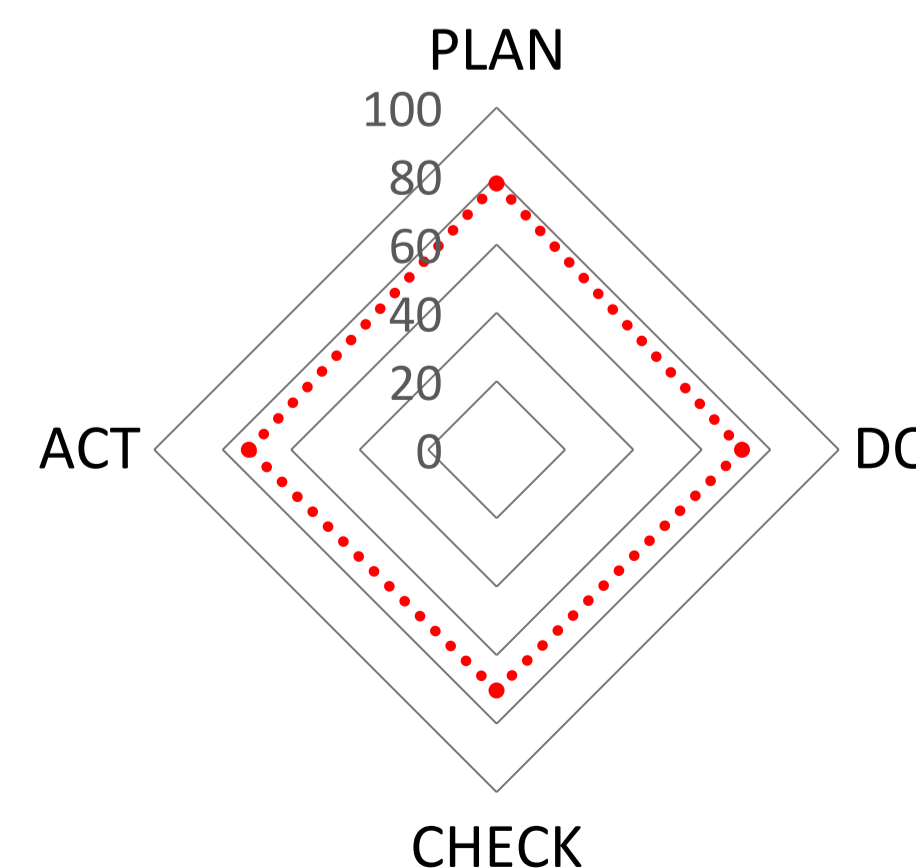
Methodology Design

Mixed Methods Approach



H&S Management in Construction SMEs

The Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle is a widely used H&S management system which leads to a better understanding of processes, problems and possible solutions to improve the H&S performance within organisations.



Level of implementation of H&S management system in SMEs

Impact of the CMCHA in H&S Management



Rating scale

- 1 - No improvement
- 2 - Minor improvement
- 3 - Moderate improvement
- 4 - High improvement
- 5 - Vast improvement



Level of improvement of H&S management factors after CMCHA

Current Research Stage

The research study is currently on the qualitative stage of the data collection which will be then followed by the conclusions.

Conclusions

- The size of a company is a major factor in the degree of exposure to corporate criminal liability.
- It is evidenced that construction SMEs are currently implementing management systems within their organisations as an approach to manage H&S effectively.
- The CMCHA has brought some improvement in the way H&S is being managed among SMEs in the construction industry. However, the number of fatalities in the sector reflects that there is still opportunity for further enhancements.

References

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