

# Why is corporate fraud punished so lightly?

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### [Former McAlpine directors jailed after accounts scandal - Financial Director.](#)

*Three former executives of Welsh Slate Ltd, previously owned by McAlpine plc were hit with jail sentences after being found guilty of overstating the company's production and sales accounts.*

*Around 44%, or more than £10m of Welsh Slate's reported debtors were fiction in a deception which included showing auditors a stockpile of crates of roofing slate in which the outer crates were full, but the inner crates were empty.*

*Customer letters were created to give impression that debtors' payments were in the pipeline, while delivery notes and transportation invoices for non-existent consignments were forged.*

*Christopher Law, managing director, Geraint Roberts, operations director and Paul Harvey, sales chief, were sentenced to two and a half years, 16 months and 10 months respectively at Caernarfon Crown Court last week, the Serious Fraud [Office](#) announced.*

Directorship bans, payment toward prosecution costs also apply and confiscation proceedings will follow, the SFO added.

But why such light sentences? One will only serve a few months. You can get more for stealing a few videos.

The attitude to fraud has to be much tougher. This was not a victimless crime: pensioners lost out for a start. Punishments must reflect that.