
SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 200

**The Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014
(Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2015**

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2015 and comes into force on 1st July 2015.

(2) In this Order, “the Act” means the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

(3) For the purposes of the commencement of sections 10 to 14, 16 to 18 and 20 of the Act, criminal proceedings are to be taken as commenced on the day on which a report of the case has been received by the procurator fiscal.

(4) For the purposes of the commencement of section 22 of the Act—

- (a) civil proceedings are to be taken as commenced on the date on which the document initiating the proceedings is served; and
- (b) where that document is served on more than one person, the proceedings are to be taken as commenced when the document is served on the first of those persons.

Day appointed

2.—(1) The day appointed for the coming into force of section 4 of the Act (rules: review of decision not to prosecute) is 1st July 2015.

(2) The day appointed for the coming into force of the provisions of the Act specified in column 1 of the table in the Schedule (the subject matter of which is specified in column 2 of that table) is 1st September 2015.

Transitional provision – interviews with children: guidance

3. Notwithstanding the coming into force of section 7 of the Act, the obligation in section 7(2) only applies in relation to—

- (a) interviews conducted on or after 1st September 2015; and
- (b) guidance which has been issued by the Scottish Ministers on or after 1st September 2015.

Transitional provision – vulnerable witnesses and special measures

4. Sections 10 to 14, 16 to 18 and 20 of the Act come into force only in relation to criminal proceedings commenced on or after 1st September 2015.

Transitional provision – vulnerable witnesses: civil proceedings

5. Section 22 of the Act comes into force only in relation to civil proceedings commenced on or after 1st September 2015.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
19th May 2015

MICHAEL MATHESON
A member of the Scottish Government