



Immigration Act 1971

CHAPTER 77

IMMIGRATION ACT 1971

PART I

REGULATION OF ENTRY INTO AND STAY IN UNITED KINGDOM

- 1 General principles.
- 2 Statement of right of abode in United Kingdom.
- 2A Deprivation of right of abode
- 3 General provisions for regulation and control.
- 3ZA Irish citizens
- 3A Further provision as to leave to enter.
- 3B Further provision as to leave to remain.
- 3C Continuation of leave pending variation decision
- 3D Continuation of leave following revocation
- 4 Administration of control.
- 5 Procedure for, and further provisions as to, deportation.
- 6 Recommendations by court for deportation.
- 7 Exemption from deportation for certain existing residents.
- 8 Exceptions for seamen, aircrews and other special cases.
- 8A Persons ceasing to be exempt.
- 8AA Persons ineligible for leave to enter and remain, entry clearance and ETA
- 8B Persons excluded from the United Kingdom under certain instruments.
- 9 Further provisions as to common travel area.
- 10 Entry otherwise than by sea or air.
- 11 Construction of references to entry, and other phrases relating to travel.
- 11A Working in United Kingdom waters
- 11B Offshore workers: requirements to notify arrival and entry dates etc

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

PART 1A

ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATIONS

- 11C Electronic travel authorisations
- 11D Electronic travel authorisations and the Islands

PART II

APPEALS

The appellate authorities

- 12 Immigration Appeal Tribunal and adjudicators.

Appeals to adjudicator or Tribunal in first instance

- 13 Appeals against exclusion from United Kingdom.
- 14 Appeals against conditions.
- 15 Appeals in respect of deportation orders.
- 16 Appeals against validity of directions for removal.
- 17 Appeals against removal on objection to destination.
- 18 Notice of matters in respect of which there are rights of appeal.
- 19 Determination of appeals by adjudicators.

Appeals from adjudicator to Tribunal, and review of decisions

- 20 Appeal to Tribunal from determination of adjudicator.
- 21 Reference of cases for further consideration.

Supplementary

- 22 Procedure.
- 23 Financial support for organisations helping persons with rights of appeal.

PART III

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

- 24 Illegal entry and similar offences.
- 24A Deception.
- 24B Illegal working
 - 25 Assisting unlawful immigration to member State or the United Kingdom
- 25A Helping asylum-seeker to enter United Kingdom
- 25B Assisting entry to United Kingdom in breach of deportation or exclusion order
- 25BA Facilitation offences: application to rescuers
- 25BB Facilitation offences: defences relating to stowaways
- 25C Forfeiture of vehicle, ship or aircraft
- 25D Detention of ship, aircraft or vehicle
 - 26 General offences in connection with administration of Act.
- 26A Registration card
- 26B Possession of immigration stamp
 - 27 Offences by persons connected with ships or aircraft or with ports.
 - 28 Proceedings.
- 28A Arrest without warrant.

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- 28AA Arrest with warrant
- 28B Search and arrest by warrant.
- 28C Search and arrest without warrant.
- 28CA Business premises: entry to arrest
- 28D Entry and search of premises.
- 28E Entry and search of premises following arrest.
- 28F Entry and search of premises following arrest under section 25, 25A, or 25B.
- 28FA Search for personnel records: warrant unnecessary
- 28FB Search for personnel records: with warrant
- 28G Searching arrested persons.
- 28H Searching persons in police custody.
- 28ZI Retention of seized material
- 28I Seized material: access and copying.
- 28J Search warrants: safeguards.
- 28K Execution of warrants.
- 28L Interpretation of Part III.

PART 3A

MARITIME ENFORCEMENT

- 28LA Enforcement powers in relation to ships: United Kingdom
- 28M Enforcement powers in relation to ships: England and Wales
- 28N Enforcement powers in relation to ships: Scotland
- 28O Enforcement powers in relation to ships: Northern Ireland
- 28P Hot pursuit of ships in United Kingdom waters
- 28PA Power to seize and dispose of ships etc.
- 28Q Interpretation of Part 3A

PART IV

SUPPLEMENTARY

- 29 Contributions for expenses of persons returning abroad.
- 30 Return of mental patients.
- 31 Expenses.
- 31A Procedural requirements as to applications.
- 32 General provisions as to Orders in Council, etc.
- 33 Interpretation.
- 34 Repeal, transitional and temporary.
- 35 Commencement, and interim provisions.
- 36 Power to extend to Islands.
- 37 Short title and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 —

- SCHEDULE 2 — Administrative Provisions as to Control on Entry etc.
 - Part I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Immigration officers and medical inspectors

- 1 (1) Immigration officers for the purposes of this Act shall...

Examination by immigration officers, and medical examination

- 2 (1) An immigration officer may examine any persons within sub-paragraph...

Examination of persons who arrive with continuing leave

- 2A (1) This paragraph applies to a person who has arrived...
3 (1) An immigration officer or designated person may examine any...

Information and documents

- 4 (1) It shall be the duty of any person examined...
5 The Secretary of State may by order made by statutory...

Designated persons

- 5A (1) In this Schedule “ designated person ” means a...

Directions to carriers and operators of ports etc

- 5B (1) The Secretary of State may direct—

Notice of leave to enter or of refusal of leave

- 6 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3) below, where a person examined...

Power to require medical examination after entry

- 7 (1) This paragraph applies if an immigration officer examining a...

Removal of persons refused leave to enter and illegal entrants

- 8 (1) Where a person arriving in the United Kingdom is...
9 (1) Where an illegal entrant is not given leave to...
10 (1) Where it appears to the Secretary of State either—...
10A Where directions are given in respect of a person under...
11 A person in respect of whom directions are given under...

Seamen and aircrews

- 12 (1) If, on a person’s examination by an immigration officer...
13 (1) Where a person being a member of the crew...
14 (1) Where it appears to the Secretary of State that...
15 A person in respect of whom directions are given under...

Search of premises in connection with removal

- 15A (1) This paragraph applies if— (a) an immigration officer is...

Detention of persons liable to examination or removal

- 16 (1) A person who may be required to submit to...
17 (1) A person liable to be detained under paragraph 16...
17A (1) A person liable to be detained under paragraph 16...

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- 18 (1) Persons may be detained under paragraph 16 above in...
- 18A (1) An immigration officer or constable may search a person...
- 18B (1) Where a person detained under paragraph 16(2) is an...
- 19 (1) Where a person is refused leave to enter the...
- 20 (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, in either...

Temporary admission or release of persons liable to detention

- 21 (1) A person liable to detention or detained under paragraph...
- 22
- 23 (1) Where a recognizance entered into under paragraph 22 above...
- 24 (1) An immigration officer or constable may arrest without warrant...
- 25 (1) Tribunal Procedure Rules must make provision with respect to...

Entry and search of premises

- 25A (1) This paragraph applies if— (a) a person is arrested...

Searching persons arrested by immigration officers

- 25B (1) This paragraph applies if a person is arrested under...

Searching persons in police custody

- 25C (1) This paragraph applies if a person—

Entry of premises to search for driving licence

- 25CA (1) An authorised officer may exercise the powers in this...

Searching persons for driving licences

- 25CB (1) An authorised officer may exercise the powers in this...

Seizure and retention of driving licence

- 25CC (1) If an authorised officer who is exercising a power...

Access and copying

- 25D (1) If a person showing himself— (a) to be the...
- 25E Section 28L applies for the purposes of this Schedule as...

Supplementary duties of those connected with ships or aircraft or with ports

- 26 (1) The owners or agents of a ship or aircraft...
- 27 (1) The captain of a ship or aircraft arriving in...

Supplementary duties of the Concessionaires

- 27A Administrative Provisions as to Control on Entry

Passenger information

- 27B (1) This paragraph applies to ships or aircraft—
- 27BA (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations requiring responsible...
- 27BB (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations imposing penalties...

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Notification of non-EEA arrivals

- 27C Administrative Provisions as to Control on Entry
Part II — EFFECT OF APPEALS

Stay on directions for removal

- 28 Administrative Provisions as to Control on Entry

Grant of bail pending appeal

- 29 (1) Where a person (in the following provisions of this...

Restrictions on grant of bail

- 30 (1) An appellant shall not be released under paragraph 29...

Forfeiture of recognizances

- 31 (1) Where under paragraph 29 above (as it applies in...
32 Where under paragraph 29 above (as it applies in Scotland)...

Arrest of appellants released on bail

- 33 (1) An immigration officer or constable may arrest without warrant...
33A (1) Tribunal Procedure Rules must make provision with respect to...

Grant of bail pending removal

- 34

SCHEDULE 3 — Supplementary Provisions as to Deportation

Removal of persons liable to deportation

- 1 (1) Where a deportation order is in force against any...

Detention or control pending deportation

- 2 (1) Where a recommendation for deportation made by a court...

Effect of appeals

- 3 So far as they relate to an appeal under section...

Powers of courts pending deportation

- 4 Where the release of a person recommended for deportation is...
5 (1) On an application made— (a) by or on behalf...
6 (1) In this Schedule “ the appropriate court ” means,...
7 (1) A constable or immigration officer may arrest without warrant...
8 (1) A person arrested in England or Wales in pursuance...
9 (1) A person arrested in Scotland in pursuance of paragraph...
10 Any justice of the peace or court before whom a...

SCHEDULE 4 — Integration with United Kingdom Law of Immigration Law of
Islands

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Leave to enter

- 1 (1) Where under the immigration laws of any of the...
- 2 Notwithstanding section 3(4) of this Act, leave given to a...

Deportation

- 3 (1) This Act has effect in relation to a person...

Relevant person for purposes of paragraph 3

- 3A (1) For the purposes of paragraph 3, a person is...

Illegal entrants

- 4 Notwithstanding anything in section 1(3) of this Act, it shall...

SCHEDULE 4A — Enforcement powers in relation to ships

PART A1 — UNITED KINGDOM

- A1 Introductory
- B1 Power to stop, board, divert and detain
- C1 Power to search and obtain information
- D1 Power of arrest and seizure
- E1 Protective searches of persons
- F1 Search for nationality documents
- G1 Assistants
- H1 Reasonable force
- I1 Evidence of authority
- J1 Protection of relevant officers
- K1 Offences under the law of England and Wales
- L1 Offences under the law of Scotland
- M1 Offences under the law of Northern Ireland

PART 1 — ENGLAND AND WALES

Introductory

- 1 (1) This Part of this Schedule sets out the powers...

Power to stop, board, divert and detain

- 2 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power to search and obtain information

- 3 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power of arrest and seizure

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Protective searches of persons

- 5 (1) A relevant officer may search a person found on...

Search for nationality documents

- 6 (1) A relevant officer may require a person found on...

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Assistants

- 7 (1) A relevant officer may— (a) be accompanied by other...

Reasonable force

- 8 A relevant officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in...

Evidence of authority

- 9 A relevant officer must produce evidence of the officer's authority...

Protection of relevant officers

- 10 A relevant officer is not liable in any criminal or...

Offences

- 11 (1) A person commits an offence under the law of...
PART 2 — SCOTLAND

Introductory

- 12 (1) This Part of this Schedule sets out the powers...

Power to stop, board, divert and detain

- 13 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power to search and obtain information

- 14 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power of arrest and seizure

- 15 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Protective searches of persons

- 16 (1) The relevant officer may search a person found on...

Search for nationality documents

- 17 (1) The relevant officer may require a person found on...

Assistants

- 18 (1) A relevant officer may— (a) be accompanied by other...

Reasonable force

- 19 A relevant officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in...

Evidence of authority

- 20 A relevant officer must produce evidence of the officer's authority...

Protection of relevant officers

- 21 A relevant officer is not liable in any criminal or...

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Offences

- 22 (1) A person commits an offence under the law of...
PART 3 — NORTHERN IRELAND

Introductory

- 23 (1) This Part of this Schedule sets out the powers...

Power to stop, board, divert and detain

- 24 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power to search and obtain information

- 25 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Power of arrest and seizure

- 26 (1) This paragraph applies if a relevant officer has reasonable...

Protective searches of persons

- 27 (1) The relevant officer may search a person found on...

Search for nationality documents

- 28 (1) The relevant officer may require a person found on...

Assistants

- 29 (1) A relevant officer may— (a) be accompanied by other...

Reasonable force

- 30 A relevant officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in...

Evidence of authority

- 31 A relevant officer must produce evidence of the officer's authority...

Protection of relevant officers

- 32 A relevant officer is not liable in any criminal or...

Offences

- 33 (1) A person commits an offence under the law of...

SCHEDULE 5 — The Adjudicators and the Tribunal

Part I — THE ADJUDICATORS

- 1 There shall be such number of adjudicators as the Lord...
2 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph An
adjudicator...
3 [(1)] The Lord Chancellor shall pay— (a) to the adjudicators,...
4 The Adjudicators and the Tribunal
5 The adjudicators shall sit at such times and in such...

Part II — THE TRIBUNAL

Changes to legislation: Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Members

- 6 The Tribunal shall consist of such number of members as...
- 7 The president and such number of the other members of...
- 8 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph A member...
- 9 [(1)]The Lord Chancellor shall pay— (a) to the members of...
- 10 The Adjudicators and the Tribunal

Proceedings

- 11 For the purpose of hearing and determining appeals under Part...
 - 12 Subject to rules of procedure, the Tribunal shall be deemed...
 - 13 The Lord Chancellor may appoint members of the Tribunal who...
 - 14 The president or, in his absence, the member qualified as...
- Part III — STAFF AND EXPENSES
- 15 The Lord Chancellor may appoint such officers and servants for...
 - 16 The remuneration of officers and servants appointed as aforesaid, and...

SCHEDULE 6 — Repeals

Changes to legislation:

Immigration Act 1971 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 8B(1)-(3) power to modify conferred by [S.I. 2020/733 reg. 38\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regulations revoked prospectively by S.I. 2020/1278, regs. 1(2), 66(4))
- s. 8B(1)-(3) power to modify conferred by [S.I. 2021/1404 reg. 23](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. Although it was debated, it was not approved by resolutions of both Houses within the required timeframe, so it has expired with no effect. See the Twelfth Report of Session 2022-23 of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments)
- s. 10(1) words repealed by [1999 c. 33 Sch. 14 para. 47\(2\)](#)[Sch. 16](#)
- s. 10(2) words substituted by [1999 c. 33 Sch. 14 para. 47\(4\)](#)
- s. 11(1) applied by [2023 c. 37 s. 2\(10\)](#)
- s. 11(1) words inserted by [1999 c. 33 Sch. 14 para. 48](#)
- s. 11(1) words omitted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 10 para. 15\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The prospectively inserted words in s. 11(1) by 1999 c. 33, Sch. 14 para. 48 have not yet been commenced.)
- s. 25(1) word substituted by [S.I. 2019/745 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4(3)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1309, regs. 1(2)(a), 48)
- s. 25(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2019/745 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 4(3)(b) omitted immediately before IP completion day by virtue of S.I. 2020/1309, regs. 1(2)(a), 48)
- s. 25(7)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/745 reg. 4\(3\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 26A(1)(b)(i) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 32\(2\)](#)
- s. 26A(1)(b)(ii) omitted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 2\(a\)](#)
- s. 26A(2) words substituted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 32\(3\)](#)
- s. 28A(3)(a) word inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(3\)](#)
- s. 28B(5) word inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(4\)](#)
- s. 28D(4) word inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(6\)](#)
- s. 36 power extended by [2020 c. 1 s. 42\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 17A applied by [2023 c. 37 s. 8\(14\)](#)
- Sch. 2 excluded in part by [2002 c. 41, s. 62\(3A\)](#) (as inserted) by [2023 c. 37 s. 11\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 16 cross-heading words inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 11\(3\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied by [2008 c. 4 s. 133\(7\)\(8\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 10(1A)(1B) inserted by [1999 c. 33 Sch. 14 para. 47\(3\)](#)
- s. 24(1)(fa) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(2\)](#)
- s. 24C-24F inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(2\)](#)
- s. 26A(1)(b)(ia) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 25](#)
- s. 27(1)(aa) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 27(1)(ba) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 28CA(1)(bb) substituted for word in s. 28CA(1)(b) by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 27B(4A) inserted by [2004 c. 19 s. 16](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 26(4) inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 74\(1\)](#)

- Sch. 2 Pt. 1A inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 13](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 11A inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(4\)](#)