



# Limitation Act 1980

## CHAPTER 58

### LIMITATION ACT 1980

#### PART I

##### ORDINARY TIME LIMITS FOR DIFFERENT CLASSES OF ACTION

##### *Time limits under Part I subject to extension or exclusion under Part II*

- 1 Time limits under Part I subject to extension or exclusion under Part II.

##### *Actions founded on tort*

- 2 Time limit for actions founded on tort.
- 3 Time limit in case of successive conversions and extinction of title of owner of converted goods.
- 4 Special time limit in case of theft.
- 4A Time limit for actions for defamation or malicious falsehood.
- 4B Special time limit for certain actions in respect of damage or defects in relation to buildings

##### *Actions founded on simple contract*

- 5 Time limit for actions founded on simple contract.
- 5A Additional time limit for actions for damages for late payment of insurance claims
- 6 Special time limit for actions in respect of certain loans.
- 7 Time limit for actions to enforce certain awards.

##### *General rule for actions on a specialty*

- 8 Time limit for actions on a specialty.

**Changes to legislation:** Limitation Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 February 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

---

*Actions for sums recoverable by statute*

- 9 Time limit for actions for sums recoverable by statute.
- 10 Special time limit for claiming contribution.
- 10A Special time limit for actions by insurers etc in respect of automated vehicles.
- 10B Special time limit for actions relating to construction products

*Actions in respect of wrongs causing personal injuries or death etc*

- 11 Special time limit for actions in respect of personal injuries.
- 11A Actions in respect of defective products.
- 11B Actions against insurers etc of automated vehicles.
- 12 Special time limit for actions under Fatal Accidents legislation.
- 13 Operation of time limit under section 12 in relation to different dependants.
- 14 Definition of date of knowledge for purposes of sections 11 to 12.

*Actions in respect of latent damage not involving personal injuries*

- 14A Special time limit for negligence actions where facts relevant to cause of action are not known at date of accrual.
- 14B Overriding time limit for negligence actions not involving personal injuries.

*Actions to recover land and rent*

- 15 Time limit for actions to recover land.
- 16 Time limit for redemption actions.
- 17 Extinction of title to land after expiration of time limit.
- 18 Settled land and land held on trust.
- 19 Time limit for actions to recover rent.

*Commonhold*

- 19A Actions for breach of commonhold duty

*Actions to recover money secured by a mortgage  
or charge or to recover proceeds of the sale of land*

- 20 Time limit for actions to recover money secured by a mortgage or charge or to recover proceeds of the sale of land.

*Actions in respect of trust property or the personal estate of deceased persons*

- 21 Time limit for actions in respect of trust property.
- 22 Time limit for actions claiming personal estate of a deceased person.

*Actions for an account*

- 23 Time limit in respect of actions for an account.

*Miscellaneous and supplemental*

- 24 Time limit for actions to enforce judgments.
- 25 Time limit for actions to enforce advowsons and extinction of title to advowsons.

**Changes to legislation:** Limitation Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 February 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

---

- 26 Administration to date back to death.
- 27 Cure of defective disentailing assurance.
- 27A Actions for recovery of property obtained through unlawful conduct etc.
- 27AB Actions to prohibit dealing with property subject to an external request
- 27B Actions for recovery of property for purposes of an external order
- 27C Actions for exploitation proceeds orders
- 27D Actions relating to the Northern Ireland Troubles

## PART II

### EXTENSION OR EXCLUSION OF ORDINARY TIME LIMITS

#### *Disability*

- 28 Extension of limitation period in case of disability.
- 28A Extension for cases where the limitation period is the period under section 14A(4)(b).

#### *Acknowledgment and part payment*

- 29 Fresh accrual of action on acknowledgment or part payment.
- 30 Formal provisions as to acknowledgments and part payments.
- 31 Effect of acknowledgment or part payment on persons other than the maker or recipient.

#### *Fraud, concealment and mistake*

- 32 Postponement of limitation period in case of fraud, concealment or mistake.

#### *Discretionary exclusion of time limit for actions for defamation or malicious falsehood*

- 32A Discretionary exclusion of time limit for actions for defamation or malicious falsehood.

#### *Discretionary exclusion of time limit for actions in respect of personal injuries or death*

- 33 Discretionary exclusion of time limit for actions in respect of personal injuries or death.

#### *Mediation in certain cross-border disputes*

- 33A Extension of time limits because of mediation in certain cross-border disputes

#### *Alternative Dispute Resolution in certain cross border or domestic contractual disputes*

- 33B Extension of time limits because of alternative dispute resolution in certain cross border or domestic contractual disputes

## PART III

### MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- 34 Application of Act and other limitation enactments to arbitrations.
- 35 New claims in pending actions: rules of court.
- 36 Equitable jurisdiction and remedies.
- 37 Application to the Crown and the Duke of Cornwall.

*Changes to legislation:* Limitation Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 February 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

---

- 38 Interpretation.
- 39 Saving for other limitation enactments.
- 40 Transitional provisions, amendments and repeals.
- 41 Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Provisions with Respect to Actions to Recover Land  
 Part I — ACCRUAL OF RIGHTS OF ACTION TO RECOVER LAND

*Accrual of right of action in case of present interests in land*

- 1 Where the person bringing an action to recover land, or...
- 2 Where any person brings an action to recover any land...
- 3 Where any person brings an action to recover land, being...

*Accrual of right of action in case of future interests*

- 4 The right of action to recover any land shall, in...
- 5 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, a tenancy from year...
- 6 (1) Where— (a) any person is in possession of land...

*Accrual of right of action in case of forfeiture or breach of condition*

- 7 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, a right of action...

*Right of action not to accrue or continue unless there is adverse possession*

- 8 (1) No right of action to recover land shall be...

*Possession of beneficiary not adverse to others interested in settled land or land held on trust for sale*

- 9 Where any settled land or any land subject to a...

Part II — MODIFICATION OF SECTION 15 WHERE CROWN OR CERTAIN  
 CORPORATIONS SOLE ARE INVOLVED

- 10 Subject to paragraph 11 below, section 15(1) of this Act...
- 11 (1) An action to recover foreshore may be brought by...
- 12 Notwithstanding section 15(1) of this Act, where in the case...
- 13 Section 15(2) of this Act shall apply in any case...

SCHEDULE 2 — Transitional Provisions

- 1 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 2 The amendment made by section 14(1) of the Limitation Act...
- 3 It is hereby declared that a decision taken at any...
- 4 (1) In section 33(6) of this Act the reference to...
- 5 Notwithstanding anything in section 29(7) of this Act or in...
- 6 Section 28 of the Limitation Act 1939 (provisions as to...
- 7 Section 37(2)(c) of this Act shall be treated for the...
- 8 In relation to a lease granted before the coming into...
- 9 (1) Nothing in any provision of this Act shall—

SCHEDULE 3 — Consequential Amendments

- 1 .....

**Changes to legislation:** Limitation Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 February 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](#)

---

- 2 In section 21A of the Administration of Estates Act 1925...
- 3 In section 2(1) of the Limitation (Enemies and War Prisoners)...
- 4 In section 3(4) of the Charitable Trusts (Validation) Act 1954...
- 5 In section 5(3) of the Carriage by Air Act 1961...
- 6 In section 7(2)(a) of the Carriage of Goods by Road...
- 7 In paragraph 7(6) of Schedule 3 to the Agriculture Act...
- 8 In paragraph 6(2) of Schedule 3 to the Mines and...
- 9 In section 25(5) of the Law of Property Act 1969...
- 10 In section 10 of the Animals Act 1971 (application of...
- 11 In section 2(4) of the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act...
- 12 In section 88(4) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974...

#### SCHEDULE 4 — Enactments Repealed

**Changes to legislation:**

Limitation Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 February 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. 33A continued by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 10 para. 2\(11\)\(a\)](#)