



Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 46

PART XI

SENTENCING

Pre-sentencing procedure

203 Reports.

- (1) Where a person specified in section 27(1)(b)(i) to (vi) of the ^{M1}Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 commits an offence, the court shall not dispose of the case without obtaining from the local authority in whose area the person resides a report as to—
- the circumstances of the offence; and
 - the character of the offender, including his behaviour while under the supervision, or as the case may be subject to the order, so specified in relation to him.

[^{F1}(1A) However, if there is available to the court a report from a local authority—

- of the kind described in subsection (1)(b) above; and
- which was prepared in relation to the person not more than 3 months before the person was convicted of the offence,

the court need not obtain another report of that kind before disposing of the case unless it considers, following representations made by or on behalf of the person as to the person's circumstances, that it is appropriate to obtain another report.

- (1B) Nothing in subsection (1) or (1A) above requires the court to obtain a report if the court is satisfied, having regard to its likely method of dealing with the case before it for disposal, that the report would not be of any material assistance.]
- (2) In subsection (1) above, “the court” does not include a [^{F2}JP court] .
- (3) Where, in any case, a report by an officer of a local authority is made to the court with a view to assisting the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing

Changes to legislation: Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, Section 203 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 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](#)

with any person in respect of an offence, a copy of the report shall be given by the clerk of the court to

- [^{F3}(a) the offender,
- (b) the offender's solicitor (if any), and
- (c) the prosecutor.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 203(1A)(1B) inserted (10.12.2007) by [Criminal Proceedings etc. \(Reform\) \(Scotland\) Act 2007 \(asp 6\)](#), [ss. 24, 84](#); S.S.I. 2007/479, [art. 3\(1\)](#), Sch. (as amended by S.S.I. 2007/527)
- F2** Words in s. 203(2) substituted (10.3.2008, 2.6.2008, 8.12.2008, 23.2.2009 and 14.12.2009 for certain purposes, otherwise 22.2.2010) by [Criminal Proceedings etc. \(Reform\) \(Scotland\) Act 2007 \(asp 6\)](#), [ss. 80, 84](#), [Sch. para. 26\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2008/42, [art. 3](#), Sch.; S.S.I. 2008/192, [art. 3](#), Sch.; S.S.I. 2008/329, [art. 3](#), Sch.; S.S.I. 2008/362, [art. 3](#), Sch.; S.S.I. 2009/432, [art. 3](#), Schs. 1, 2
- F3** Words in s. 203(3) substituted (1.2.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), [ss. 20\(2\), 206\(1\)](#); S.S.I. 2010/413, [art. 2](#), Sch. (with art. 3)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1968 c.49.

Changes to legislation:

Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, Section 203 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 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 the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

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

- s. 5A inserted by 2010 asp 13 Sch. 7 para. 26
- s. 13(1B)(1C) inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(2)
- s. 13(2)(aa) inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(3)(b)
- s. 13(3A) inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(4)
- s. 13(5)(ba) inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(5)(a)
- s. 13(6)(a)(iii) and word inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(6)(b)
- s. 13(8) inserted by 2006 asp 10 s. 82(7)
- s. 22(5A) inserted by 2007 asp 6 s. 7(2)(g)
- s. 22A(1A) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 1(2)
- s. 23B(1)(1A) substituted for s. 23B(1) by 2023 asp 4 s. 2(2)(a)
- s. 23B(6A) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 1(3)(c)
- s. 23B(8)-(10) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 2(2)(c)
- s. 23C(1A) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 2(3)(b)
- s. 23C(3) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 2(3)(c)
- s. 24(2C) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 4(4)
- s. 24(2AA) inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 4(2)
- s. 73A inserted by 2004 asp 3 s. 2(3)
- s. 167(7D)(7E) inserted by 2007 asp 17 sch. 4 para. 1(3)
- s. 167(7D) words substituted by 2010 asp 13 Sch. 3 para. 16(2)
- s. 167(7E) words substituted by 2010 asp 13 Sch. 3 para. 16(3)
- s. 194ZA repealed by 2014 asp 18 sch. 3 para. 25
- s. 200A inserted by 2016 asp 1 s. 85
- s. 205A added by 1997 c. 48 s. 1(1) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. 1997 c. 48, s. 1 repealed (27.6.2003) without ever being in force by 2003 asp 7, s. 19(3); S.S.I. 2003/288, art. 2, Sch.)
- s. 210ZA inserted by 2023 asp 4 s. 5
- s. 249(4A)-(4D) inserted by 2014 asp 1 s. 24
- s. 271D(4A) inserted by 2019 asp 8 s. 6(4)
- s. 271F(2)(aa) inserted by 2019 asp 8 s. 10(4)
- s. 271AA inserted by 2019 asp 8 s. 6(2)
- s. 271BZD inserted by 2019 asp 8 s. 3(2)
- s. 288AB288AC inserted by 2024 asp 1 s. 32(3)
- Sch. 5A added by 1997 c. 48 s. 1(2) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. 1997 c. 48, s. 1 repealed (27.6.2003) without ever being in force by 2003 asp 7, s. 19(3); S.S.I. 2003/288, art. 2, Sch.)