



# Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 25

### PART I

#### DISCLOSURE

##### *Time limits*

#### **12 Time limits**

- (1) This section has effect for the purpose of determining the relevant period for sections 3, 5, 6 and 7.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the relevant period is a period beginning and ending with such days as the Secretary of State prescribes by regulations for the purposes of the section concerned.
- (3) The regulations may do one or more of the following—
  - (a) provide that the relevant period for any section shall if the court so orders be extended (or further extended) by so many days as the court specifies;
  - (b) provide that the court may only make such an order if an application is made by a prescribed person and if any other prescribed conditions are fulfilled;
  - (c) provide that an application may only be made if prescribed conditions are fulfilled;
  - (d) provide that the number of days by which a period may be extended shall be entirely at the court's discretion;
  - (e) provide that the number of days by which a period may be extended shall not exceed a prescribed number;
  - (f) provide that there shall be no limit on the number of applications that may be made to extend a period;
  - (g) provide that no more than a prescribed number of applications may be made to extend a period;

and references to the relevant period for a section shall be construed accordingly.

- (4) Conditions mentioned in subsection (3) may be framed by reference to such factors as the Secretary of State thinks fit.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (4), so far as the relevant period for section 3 or 7 is concerned—
  - (a) conditions may be framed by reference to the nature or volume of the material concerned;
  - (b) the nature of material may be defined by reference to the prosecutor’s belief that the question of non-disclosure on grounds of public interest may arise.
- (6) In subsection (3) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under this section.

### **13 Time limits: transitional**

- (1) As regards a case in relation to which no regulations under section 12 have come into force for the purposes of section 3, section 3(8) shall have effect as if it read—
  - “(8) The prosecutor must act under this section as soon as is reasonably practicable after—
    - (a) the accused pleads not guilty (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(1)),
    - (b) the accused is committed for trial (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(a)),
    - (c) the proceedings are transferred (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(b) or (c)),
    - (d) the count is included in the indictment (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(d)), or
    - (e) the bill of indictment is preferred (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(e)).”
- (2) As regards a case in relation to which no regulations under section 12 have come into force for the purposes of section 7, section 7(7) shall have effect as if it read—
  - “(7) The prosecutor must act under this section as soon as is reasonably practicable after the accused gives a defence statement under section 5 or 6.”