



Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 29

PART 5

CIVIL RECOVERY OF THE PROCEEDS ETC. OF UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

CHAPTER 3

RECOVERY OF CASH IN SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

Forfeiture

298 Forfeiture

- (1) While cash is detained under section 295 [^{F1}, 297C or 297D], an application for the forfeiture of the whole or any part of it may be made—
 - (a) to a magistrates' court by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise [^{F2}, an accredited financial investigator][^{F3}, a constable or an SFO officer],
 - (b) (in Scotland) to the sheriff by the Scottish Ministers.
- (2) The court or sheriff may order the forfeiture of the cash or any part of it if satisfied that the cash or part—
 - (a) is recoverable property, or
 - (b) is intended by any person for use in unlawful conduct.
- (3) But in the case of recoverable property which belongs to joint tenants, one of whom is an excepted joint owner, the order may not apply to so much of it as the court thinks is attributable to the excepted joint owner's share.
- (4) Where an application for the forfeiture of any cash is made under this section, the cash is to be detained (and may not be released under any power conferred by this Chapter) until any proceedings in pursuance of the application (including any proceedings on appeal) are concluded.

Changes to legislation: *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Cross Heading: Forfeiture is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 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*

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 298(1) inserted (1.6.2015) by [Policing and Crime Act 2009 \(c. 26\)](#), **ss. 65(2)**, 116(1); S.I. 2015/983, art. 2(2)(c)
- F2** Words in s. 298(1)(a) inserted (6.4.2008) by [Serious Crime Act 2007 \(c. 27\)](#), s. 94(1), **Sch. 11 para. 10**; S.I. 2008/755, art. 17(1)(f)
- F3** Words in s. 298(1)(a) substituted (27.4.2017 for specified purposes, 31.1.2018 for E.W.S. in so far as not already in force, 28.6.2021 for N.I. in so far as not already in force) by [Criminal Finances Act 2017 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 58(1)(6), **Sch. 1 para. 22**; S.I. 2018/78, reg. 3(aa); S.I. 2021/724, reg. 3(b)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 5 Ch. 3 applied (27.4.2017 for specified purposes, 31.1.2018 for E.W.S. in so far as not already in force, 28.6.2021 for N.I. in so far as not already in force) by 2007 c. 30, s. 24(1) (as substituted by [Criminal Finances Act 2017 \(c. 22\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 58(1)(6); S.I. 2018/78, reg. 3(f); S.I. 2021/724, reg. 2(1)(i))

[^{F4}299 Appeal against decision under section 298

- (1) Any party to proceedings for an order for the forfeiture of cash under section 298 who is aggrieved by an order under that section or by the decision of the court not to make such an order may appeal—
 - (a) in relation to England and Wales, to the Crown Court;
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, to the Sheriff Principal;
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, to a county court.
- (2) An appeal under subsection (1) must be made before the end of the period of 30 days starting with the day on which the court makes the order or decision.
- (3) The court hearing the appeal may make any order it thinks appropriate.
- (4) If the court upholds an appeal against an order forfeiting the cash, it may [^{F5}order the release of the whole or any part of the cash] .]

Textual Amendments

- F4** S. 299 substituted (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), **ss. 101(1)**, 178(7)(a) (with s. 101(2)); S.I. 2005/1521, art. 2(1)(d) (with art. 2(2))
- F5** Words in s. 299(4) substituted (1.6.2015) by [Policing and Crime Act 2009 \(c. 26\)](#), **ss. 65(3)**, 116(1); S.I. 2015/983, art. 2(2)(c)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Pt. 5 Ch. 3 applied by 2007 c. 30, s. 24(1) (as substituted (27.4.2017 for specified purposes, 31.1.2018 for E.W.S. in so far as not already in force) by [Criminal Finances Act 2017 \(c. 22\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 58(1)(6); S.I. 2018/78, reg. 3(f))

300 Application of forfeited cash

- (1) Cash forfeited under [^{F6}section 298], and any accrued interest on it—
 - (a) if forfeited by a magistrates' court in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund,

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- (b) if forfeited by the sheriff, is to be paid into the Scottish Consolidated Fund.
- (2) But it is not to be paid in—
- (a) before the end of the period within which an appeal under section 299 may be made, or
 - (b) if a person appeals under that section, before the appeal is determined or otherwise disposed of.

Textual Amendments

F6 Words in s. 300(1) substituted (1.6.2015) by [Policing and Crime Act 2009 \(c. 26\)](#), s. 116(1), [Sch. 7 para. 107](#); [S.I. 2015/983](#), arts. 2(2)(e), 3(ff)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 Pt. 5 Ch. 3 applied by 2007 c. 30, s. 24(1) (as substituted (27.4.2017 for specified purposes, 31.1.2018 for E.W.S. in so far as not already in force) by [Criminal Finances Act 2017 \(c. 22\)](#), [ss. 21\(3\)](#), 58(1)(6); [S.I. 2018/78](#), reg. 3(f))

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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. 13(5)(a)(iia) inserted by [2015 c. 30 Sch. 5 para. 15\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 323(1)(hc) inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 45\(2\)](#)
- s. 323(4)(ec) inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 45\(3\)](#)
- s. 323(5)(ec) inserted by [2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 45\(4\)](#)