



# Coronavirus Act 2020

## 2020 CHAPTER 7

### PART 1

#### MAIN PROVISIONS

#### *Investigatory powers*

#### <sup>F1</sup>22 Appointment of temporary Judicial Commissioners

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#### Textual Amendments

<sup>F1</sup> S. 22 expires (25.3.2022) by [Coronavirus Act 2020 \(c. 7\), s. 89](#) (with s. 90)

#### <sup>F2</sup>23 Time limits in relation to urgent warrants etc under Investigatory Powers Act

- (1) The power in subsection (2) is exercisable if the Investigatory Powers Commissioner notifies the Secretary of State that, in the Commissioner's opinion, the power needs to be exercised in response to the effects that coronavirus is having, or is likely to have, on the capacity of Judicial Commissioners to carry out their functions.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument modify the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 so as to alter, for the purposes of any of the specified provisions of that Act (see subsection (3)), the length of a period referred to in that Act as “the relevant period”.
- (3) The specified provisions are—
  - (a) sections 24(3), 109(3), 180(3) and 209(3) (period within which Judicial Commissioner must decide whether to approve decision to issue urgent warrant);
  - (b) sections 32(2)(a), 116(2)(a), 184(2)(a) and 213(2)(a) (period at end of which urgent warrant ceases to have effect);

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Coronavirus Act 2020, Cross Heading: Investigatory powers. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (c) sections 33(5)(a), 117(5)(a), 185(3)(a) and 214(3)(a) (period during which urgent warrant may be renewed);
  - (d) sections 38(5), 122(5), 124(3), 147(3), 166(3), 188(3) and 217(3) (period within which Judicial Commissioner or other appropriate person must decide whether to approve decision to make urgent modification of warrant).
- (4) A modification made by the regulations may not increase the length of a period so that it ends after the 12th working day after the day on which the warrant was issued or, as the case may be, the modification was made.
- (5) The regulations may make consequential, supplementary or transitional provision.
- (6) The regulations must provide for them to cease to have effect at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which they come into force.
- (7) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (8) In this section—
- “Investigatory Powers Commissioner” has the meaning given in section 263(1) of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016;
  - “Judicial Commissioner” has the meaning given in that section and also includes a person appointed under regulations made under section 22.]

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**Textual Amendments**

- F2** S. 23 suspended (21.4.2021) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Suspension: Temporary Judicial Commissioners, Urgent Warrants, and Disposal of Bodies\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/486\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2**
- S. 23 expires (E.N.I.) (9.12.2021) by [The Coronavirus Act 2020 \(Early Expiry\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1399\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Coronavirus Act 2020, Cross Heading:  
Investigatory powers.