



# Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 2014 asp 1

## *Vulnerable witnesses*

### **20 Special measures: closed courts**

- (1) In section 271H(1) of the 1995 Act (the special measures), after paragraph (e) insert—
  - “(ea) excluding the public during the taking of the evidence in accordance with section 271HB of this Act,”.
- (2) After section 271HA of the 1995 Act (inserted by section 19), insert—

#### **“271HB Excluding the public while taking evidence**

- (1) This section applies where the special measure to be used in respect of a vulnerable witness is excluding the public during the taking of the evidence of the vulnerable witness.
- (2) The court may direct that all or any persons other than those mentioned in subsection (3) are excluded from the court during the taking of the evidence.
- (3) The persons are—
  - (a) members or officers of the court,
  - (b) parties to the case before the court, their counsel or solicitors or persons otherwise directly concerned in the case,
  - (c) *bona fide* representatives of news gathering or reporting organisations present for the purpose of the preparation of contemporaneous reports of the proceedings,
  - (d) such other persons as the court may specially authorise to be present.”.
- (3) In section 271F(8)(a) of the 1995 Act (special measures not applying in relation to a vulnerable witness who is the accused), after “271H(1)(c)” insert “and (ea)”.

---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/09/2015.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014, Section 20. (See end of Document for details)

---

---

#### **Commencement Information**

- II** S. 20 in force at 1.9.2015 with effect in accordance with art. 1(3) by [S.S.I. 2015/200](#), art. 2(2), [Sch.](#) (with [art. 4](#))

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/09/2015.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014, Section 20.