



# Courts and Legal Services Act 1990

## 1990 CHAPTER 41

### PART II

#### LEGAL SERVICES

##### *The Legal Services Ombudsman*

#### **25 Procedure and offences**

- (1) Where the Legal Services Ombudsman is conducting an investigation under this Act he may require any person to furnish such information or produce such documents as he considers relevant to the investigation.
- (2) For the purposes of any such investigation, the Ombudsman shall have the same powers as the High Court in respect of the attendance and examination of witnesses (including the administration of oaths or affirmations and the examination of witnesses abroad) and in respect of the production of documents.
- (3) No person shall be compelled, by virtue of subsection (2), to give evidence or produce any document which he could not be compelled to give or produce in civil proceedings before the High Court.
- (4) If any person is in contempt of the Ombudsman in relation to any investigation conducted under section 22, the Ombudsman may certify that contempt to the High Court.
- (5) For the purposes of this section a person is in contempt of the Ombudsman if he acts, or fails to act, in any way which would constitute contempt if the investigation being conducted by the Ombudsman were civil proceedings in the High Court.
- (6) Where a person's contempt is certified under subsection (4), the High Court may enquire into the matter.
- (7) Where the High Court conducts an inquiry under subsection (6) it may, after—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) hearing any witness produced against, or on behalf of, the person concerned;  
and
  - (b) considering any statement offered in his defence,
- deal with him in any manner that would be available to it had he been in contempt of the High Court.