



Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

1974 CHAPTER 53

An Act to rehabilitate offenders who have not been reconvicted of any serious offence for periods of years, to penalise the unauthorised disclosure of their previous convictions, to amend the law of defamation, and for purposes connected therewith. [31st July 1974]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act modified (1.7.1992) by [Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988](#) (c. 53, SIF 107:1), **ss. 58, 77(7)**, as substituted (1.7.1992) by [Road Traffic Act 1991](#) (c. 40, SIF 107:1), **s. 34**; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**, **Sch.** Act modified (1.4.2009) by [Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988](#) (c. 53), s. 58A(1) (as inserted by [Road Safety Act 2006](#) (c. 49), ss. 9(2), 61(1), **Sch. 2 para. 17**; S.I. 2008/3164, **art. 4(b)**) Act modified (1.4.2009) by [Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988](#) (c. 53), s. 77A(9) (as inserted by [Road Safety Act 2006](#) (c. 49), ss. 9(2), 61(1), **Sch. 2 para. 27**; S.I. 2008/3164, **art. 4(b)**)
- C2** Act (except section 1(2)) modified by [Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984](#) (c. 47, SIF 39:1), s. 3, **Sch. para. 6(a)**
- C3** Act excluded by [Financial Services Act 1986](#) (c. 60, SIF 69), **s. 189(1)** Act excluded (15.12.2011) by [Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011](#) (c. 23), ss. 25, 31(2), **Sch. 6 para. 10(2)** (with Sch. 8)
- C4** By [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), **Sch. 12 para. 23**; S.I. 1991/2208, **art. 2(1)**, **Sch. 1** it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s. 70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, **art. 2(2)**, **Sch. 2**) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 Act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.
- C5** Act amended (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, **s. 13(5)(6)**; S.I. 1996/2474, **art. 2**
- C6** Act modified (S.) (14.5.2013) by [The Children's Hearings \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Transitory Provisions) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/146), **arts. 1(1), 2(1)**
- C7** Act excluded by 2000 c. 11, **Sch. 8 para. 20D** (as inserted (31.10.2013) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 1 para. 1(4)** (with s. 97); S.I. 2013/1814, **art. 2(i)**)
- C8** Act excluded by S.I. 2009/1922, **art. 2(6)** (as inserted (31.10.2013) by [The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#) (Armed Forces) (Amendment) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2554), **arts. 1(1), 2(3)**)
- C9** Act excluded by 2008 c. 28, **s. 18E(4)** (as substituted (31.10.2013) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 1 para. 4** (with s. 97); S.I. 2013/1814, **art. 2(k)**)
- C10** Act excluded by 1984 c. 60, **s. 65B(2)** (as inserted (E.W.) (31.10.2013) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), **ss. 18(5), 120** (with s. 97); S.I. 2013/1814, **art. 2(d)**)

*Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.**Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)*

- C11** Act excluded (12.2.2019 for specified purposes, 13.8.2020 in so far as not already in force, except in relation to N.I.) by [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 \(c. 3\), s. 27\(1\)\(g\)\(2\)\(c\), Sch. 3 para. 45\(2\)](#) (with [s. 25\(9\)](#)); [S.I. 2020/792, reg. 2\(g\)](#)
- C12** [Act](#): power to modify conferred (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\), ss. 36\(1\)\(a\), 63\(2\)](#) (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)

Commencement Information

- II** Act wholly in force at 1.7.1975 see [s. 11\(2\)](#)

1 [F1 Rehabilitated][F1 Protected] persons and spent convictions.

[F2(1) Subsections (1A) and (1B) apply where—

- (a) an individual has at any time been convicted of any offence, and
- (b) an excluded sentence was not imposed on the individual in respect of the conviction.

(1A) After the expiry of the disclosure period applicable to the conviction in accordance with section 6 (including any extension under subsection (4) of that section)—

- (a) the individual is, for the purposes of this Act, to be treated as a protected person in respect of the conviction, and
- (b) the conviction is, for the purposes of this Act, to be treated as spent.

(1B) But where the disclosure period so applicable expired before commencement of this Act, the individual and conviction are to be treated as mentioned in subsection (1A) from the date of commencement of this Act.

(1C) Subsections (1) to (1B) are subject to subsections (2)[F4, (5) and (6)][F4 and (5) to (8)].

(2) A person shall not become a [F5 rehabilitated][F5 protected] person for the purposes of this Act in respect of a conviction unless he has served or otherwise undergone or complied with any sentence imposed on him in respect of that conviction; but the following shall not, by virtue of this subsection, prevent a person from becoming a [F5 rehabilitated][F5 protected] person for those purposes—

- (a) failure to pay a fine or other sum adjudged to be paid by or imposed on a conviction, or breach of a condition of a recognizance or of a bond of caution to keep the peace or be of good behaviour;
- (b) breach of any condition or requirement applicable in relation to a sentence which renders the person to whom it applies liable to be dealt with for the offence for which the sentence was imposed, or, where the sentence was a suspended sentence of imprisonment, liable to be dealt with in respect of that sentence (whether or not, in any case, he is in fact so dealt with);
- (c) failure to comply with any requirement of a suspended sentence supervision order.

[F6(2A) Where in respect of a conviction a person has been sentenced to imprisonment with an order under s. 47(1) of the ^{M1} Criminal Law Act 1977, he is to be treated for the purposes of subsection (2) above as having served the sentence as soon as he completes service of so much of the sentence as was by that order required to be served in prison.]

[F7(2B) In subsection (2)(a) above the reference to a fine or other sum adjudged to be paid by or imposed on a conviction does not include a reference to an amount payable under a confiscation order made under Part 2 or 3 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.]

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- (3) In this Act “sentence” includes any order made by a court in dealing with a person in respect of his conviction of any offence or offences, other than—
- [^{F8}(za) a surcharge imposed under section 161A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003;]
 - [^{F9}(zb) a hospital direction under section 59A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995;
 - (zc) a victim surcharge imposed under section 253F of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995;]
 - (a) an order for committal or any other order made in default of payment of any fine or other sum adjudged to be paid by or imposed on a conviction, or for want of sufficient distress to satisfy any such fine or other sum;
 - (b) an order dealing with a person in respect of a suspended sentence of imprisonment.
 - [^{F10}(c) an order under section 21A of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (criminal courts charge).]
- [^{F11}(3A) In subsection (3)(a), the reference to want of sufficient distress to satisfy a fine or other sum includes a reference to circumstances where—
- (a) there is power to use the procedure in Schedule 12 to the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to recover the fine or other sum from a person, but
 - (b) it appears, after an attempt has been made to exercise the power, that the person's goods are insufficient to pay the amount outstanding (as defined by paragraph 50(3) of that Schedule).]
- (4) In this Act, references to a conviction, however expressed, include references—
- (a) to a conviction by or before a court outside [^{F12}England and Wales][^{F13}Scotland]; and
 - (b) to any finding (other than a finding linked with a finding of insanity [^{F14}or, as the case may be, a finding that a person is not criminally responsible under section 51A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c.46)]) in any criminal proceedings ^{F15}. . . that a person has committed an offence or done the act or made the omission charged;
- and notwithstanding anything in [^{F16}section 247 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c.46)] or [^{F17}section 14 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000][^{F18}or section 187 of the Armed Forces Act 2006] a conviction in respect of which an order is made [^{F19}discharging the person concerned] absolutely or conditionally shall be treated as a conviction for the purposes of this Act and the person in question may become a [^{F20}rehabilitated][^{F20}protected] person in respect of that conviction and the conviction a spent conviction for those purposes accordingly.
- [^{F21}(4A) In this Act, an “excluded sentence” is a sentence listed in section 5(1).]
- [^{F22}(5) This Act does not apply to any disregarded conviction or caution within the meaning of Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.
- (6) Accordingly, references in this Act to a conviction or caution do not include references to any such disregarded conviction or caution.]
- [^{F23}(7) This Act does not apply to any conviction of an offence committed when the individual was under 12 years of age.
- (8) Accordingly, references in this Act to a conviction do not include references to any such conviction.]

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- F1** Word in s. 1 heading substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(3)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F2** S. 1(1)-(1C) substituted for s. 1(1) (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), **ss. 17(2)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F3** Words in s. 1(1) substituted (E.W.) (1.10.2012) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 9 para. 134(2)** (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3(o)
- F4** Words in s. 1(1C) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 7), **ss. 4(2)(a)**, 84(2); S.S.I. 2020/369, reg. 2, sch.
- F5** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(2)(a)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F6** S. 1(2A) inserted (E.W.) by [Criminal Law Act 1977](#) (c. 45), s. 65(7), **Sch. 9 para. 11**
- F7** S. 1(2B) inserted (24.3.2003) by [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#) (c. 29), ss. 456, 458(1), **Sch. 11 para. 7**; S.I. 2003/333, **art. 2**, **Sch.** (as amended by S.I. 2003/531); S.S.I. 2003/210, **art. 2**, **Sch.** (subject to arts. 3-7)
- F8** S. 1(3)(za) inserted (1.4.2007) by [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004](#) (c. 28), ss. 58(1), 60, **Sch. 10 para. 9**; S.I. 2007/602, **art. 2(c)**
- F9** S. 1(3)(zb)(zc) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(2)(b)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F10** S. 1(3)(c) inserted (13.4.2015) by [Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015](#) (c. 2), s. 95(1), **Sch. 12 para. 1**; S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 78**
- F11** S. 1(3A) inserted (6.4.2014) by [Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007](#) (c. 15), s. 148, **Sch. 13 para. 38** (with s. 89); S.I. 2014/768, art. 2(1)(b)
- F12** Words in s. 1(4)(a) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 25 para. 2** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F13** Word in s. 1(4)(a) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 25 para. 13** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F14** Words in s. 1(4)(b) inserted (S.) (with application in accordance with art. 3 of the commencing S.S.I.) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) (asp 13), s. 206(1), **sch. 7 para. 8**; S.S.I. 2012/160, art. 3, sch.
- F15** Words in s. 1(4)(b) repealed (E.W.) (14.10.1991) by [Children Act 1989](#) (c. 41, SIF 20), s. 108, **Sch. 15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**
- F16** Words in s. 1(4) substituted (S.) (28.3.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) (asp 13), **ss. 24(1)**, 206; S.S.I. 2011/178, **art. 2(1)**, **Sch.**
- F17** Words in s. 1(4) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 47**
- F18** Words in s. 1(4) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, **Sch. 16 para. 63**; S.I. 2009/812, **art. 3**; S.I. 2009/1167, **art. 4** (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, **Sch. 1 para. 14**)
- F19** Words in s. 1(4) substituted (E.W.) (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, **Sch. 11 para. 20(a)(c)**; S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**.
- F20** Word in s. 1(4) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(2)(c)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F21** S. 1(4A) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(2)(d)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F22** S. 1(5)(6) inserted (E.W.) (1.10.2012) by [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 9 para. 134(3)** (with s. 97); S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3(o)
- F23** S. 1(7)(8) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 7), **ss. 4(2)(b)**, 84(2); S.S.I. 2020/369, reg. 2, sch.

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C13** S. 1(2)(a) amended by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 170, Sch. 8 para. 16, **Sch. 15 para. 47**
- C14** S. 1(2)(a) amended by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1987 \(c. 41, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 45(2)**, 47(4)(a)
S. 1(2)(a) restricted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 37](#), **ss. 65(2)**, 69(2)
- C15** S. 1(2) excluded by [Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 \(c. 22, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 39(3)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1977 c. 45](#).

2 [F24Rehabilitation of] persons dealt with in service disciplinary proceedings.

- (1) ^{F25} . . . For the purposes of this Act any finding that a person is guilty of an offence in respect of any act or omission which was the subject of service disciplinary proceedings shall be treated as a conviction and any punishment awarded [F26or order made by virtue of Schedule 5A to the ^{M2}Army Act 1955 or to the ^{M3}Air Force Act 1955 or Schedule 4A to the ^{M4}Naval Discipline Act 1957] in respect of any such finding shall be treated as a sentence.

^{F27}(2)

^{F27}(3)

^{F27}(4)

- (5) In this Act, “service disciplinary proceedings” means any of the following—

[^{F28}(za) any proceedings (whether or not before a court) in respect of a service offence within the meaning of the Armed Forces Act 2006 (except proceedings before a civilian court within the meaning of that Act);]

- (a) any proceedings under the ^{M5}Army Act 1955, the ^{M6}Air Force Act 1955, or the ^{M7}Naval Discipline Act 1957 whether before a court-martial or before any other court or person authorised thereunder to award a punishment in respect of any offence);

- (b) any proceedings under any Act previously in force corresponding to any of the Acts mentioned in paragraph (a) above;

[^{F29}(bb) any proceedings before a Standing Civilian Court established under the ^{M8}Armed Forces Act 1976;]

- (c) any proceedings under any corresponding enactment or law applying to a force, other than a home force, to which section 4 of the ^{M9}Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act 1933 applies or applied at the time of the proceedings, being proceedings in respect of a member of a home force who is or was at that time attached to the first-mentioned force under that section;

whether in any event those proceedings take place in [^{F30}England and Wales][^{F31}Scotland] or elsewhere.

- [^{F32}(6) Section 376(1) to (3) of the Armed Forces Act 2006 (“conviction” and “sentence” in relation to summary hearings and the SAC) apply for the purposes of this Act as they apply for the purposes of that Act.]

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- F24** Words in s. 2 title repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(4\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, [sch.](#) (with reg. 3)
- F25** Words in s. 2(1) repealed (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, s. 35(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. III](#); S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2, [Sch.](#)
- F26** Words inserted by [Armed Forces Act 1976 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 20\(1\)](#)
- F27** S. 2(2)-(4) repealed (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, ss. 13(2), 35(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. III](#); S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2, [Sch.](#)
- F28** S. 2(5)(za) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 64\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F29** S. 2(5)(bb) inserted by [Armed Forces Act 1976 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 20\(3\)](#)
- F30** Words in s. 2(5) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 3](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F31** Word in s. 2(5) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 14](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F32** S. 2(6) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 64\(b\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C16** S. 2 modified by [Armed Forces Act 1976 \(c. 52\)](#), [s. 17\(1\)](#); extended by [Armed Forces Act 1976 \(c. 52\)](#), [s. 17\(2\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M2** 1955 c. 18.
M3 1955 c. 19.
M4 1957 c. 53.
M5 1955 c. 18.
M6 1955 c. 19.
M7 1957 c. 53.
M8 1976 c. 52.
M9 1933 c. 6.

3 **Special provision with respect to certain disposals by children's hearings** **[^{F33}under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968].**

Where a ground for the referral of a child's case to a children's hearing under the [^{F34}Children (Scotland) Act 1995 is that mentioned in section 52(2)

[This section does not apply where the acts or omissions constituting the ground ^{F35}(3) mentioned in subsection (1) occurred when the child was under 12 years of age.]

- (i) of that Act (commission by the child of an offence) and that ground has either been accepted by the child and, where necessary, by his parent or been established [^{F36}(or deemed established) to the satisfaction of the sheriff under section 68 or 85 of that Act, the acceptance, establishment (or deemed establishment)] of that ground shall be treated for the purposes of this Act (but not otherwise) as a conviction, and any disposal of the case thereafter by a children's hearing shall be treated for those purposes as a sentence; and

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references in this Act to a person's being charged with or prosecuted for an offence shall be construed accordingly.

Textual Amendments

- F33** Words in s. 3 heading repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(5\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F34** Words in s. 3 substituted (S.) (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4), [Sch. 4 para. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1996/3201, [art. 3\(7\)](#)
- F35** S. 3(3) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 7), [ss. 4\(3\)](#), 84(2); S.S.I. 2020/369, reg. 2, sch.
- F36** Words in s. 3 substituted (S.) (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4), [Sch. 4 para. 23\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 1996/3201, [art. 3\(7\)](#)

4 Effect of [^{F37}rehabilitation][^{F37}becoming a protected person].

- (1) Subject to sections 7 and 8 below, a person who has become a [^{F38}rehabilitated][^{F38}protected] person for the purposes of this Act in respect of a conviction shall be treated for all purposes in law as a person who has not committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for the offence or offences which were the subject of that conviction; and, notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment or rule of law to the contrary, but subject as aforesaid—
- (a) no evidence shall be admissible in any proceedings before a judicial authority exercising its jurisdiction or functions in [^{F39}England and Wales][^{F40}Scotland] to prove that any such person has committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for any offence which was the subject of a spent conviction; and
 - (b) a person shall not, in any such proceedings, be asked, and, if asked, shall not be required to answer, any question relating to his past which cannot be answered without acknowledging or referring to a spent conviction or spent convictions or any circumstances ancillary thereto.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of any order made under subsection (4) below, where a question seeking information with respect to a person's previous convictions, offences, conduct or circumstances is put to him or to any other person otherwise than in proceedings before a judicial authority—
- (a) the question shall be treated as not relating to spent convictions or to any circumstances ancillary to spent convictions, and the answer thereto may be framed accordingly; and
 - (b) the person questioned shall not be subjected to any liability or otherwise prejudiced in law by reason of any failure to acknowledge or disclose a spent conviction or any circumstances ancillary to a spent conviction in his answer to the question.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of any order made under subsection (4) below,—
- (a) any obligation imposed on any person by any rule of law or by the provisions of any agreement or arrangement to disclose any matters to any other person shall not extend to requiring him to disclose a spent conviction or any circumstances ancillary to a spent conviction (whether the conviction is his own or another's); and

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- (b) a conviction which has become spent or any circumstances ancillary thereto, or any failure to disclose a spent conviction or any such circumstances, shall not be a proper ground for dismissing or excluding a person from any office, profession, occupation or employment, or for prejudicing him in any way in any occupation or employment.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order—
 - (a) make such provision as seems to him appropriate for excluding or modifying the application of either or both of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) above in relation to questions put in such circumstances as may be specified in the order;
 - (b) provide for such exceptions from the provisions of subsection (3) above as seem to him appropriate, in such cases or classes of case, and in relation to convictions of such a description, as may be specified in the order.
- (5) For the purposes of this section and section 7 below any of the following are circumstances ancillary to a conviction, that is to say—
 - (a) the offence or offences which were the subject of that conviction;
 - (b) the conduct constituting that offence or those offences; and
 - (c) any process or proceedings preliminary to that conviction, any sentence imposed in respect of that conviction, any proceedings (whether by way of appeal or otherwise) for reviewing that conviction or any such sentence, and anything done in pursuance of or undergone in compliance with any such sentence.
- (6) For the purposes of this section and section 7 below “proceedings before a judicial authority” includes, in addition to proceedings before any of the ordinary courts of law, proceedings before any tribunal, body or person having power—
 - (a) by virtue of any enactment, law, custom or practice;
 - (b) under the rules governing any association, institution, profession, occupation or employment; or
 - (c) under any provision of an agreement providing for arbitration with respect to questions arising thereunder;
 to determine any question affecting the rights, privileges, obligations or liabilities of any person, or to receive evidence affecting the determination of any such question.

Textual Amendments

- F37** Words in s. 4 heading substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(7\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F38** Word in s. 4(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(6\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F39** Words in s. 4(1)(a) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 5](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F40** Word in s. 4(1)(a) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 15](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C17** S. 4 excluded in part by [S.I. 1975/1023](#) (as amended: (E.W.) (18.12.2008) by [S.I. 2008/3259](#); (E.W.) (7.7.2009) by [S.I. 2009/1818](#); (E.W.) (31.3.2010) by [S.I. 2010/1153](#))

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- C18** S. 4 excluded (1.1.2007) by Gambling Act 2005 (c. 19), **ss. 125**, 358(1) (with ss. 352, 354); S.I. 2006/3272, **art. 2**, Sch. 1 (with Sch. 4)
- C19** S. 4(1) excluded by Financial Services Act 1986 (c. 60, SIF 69), **s. 189(2)**, and by Banking Act 1987 (c. 22, SIF 10), **s. 95(2)**
S. 4(1) excluded (25.10.1993) by 1993 c. 39, **s. 19(1)**; S.I. 1993/2632, **art. 2**.
- C20** S. 4(1)(2)(3) excluded by 2007 c. 30, s. 56A (as inserted (1.10.2012) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 140**, 151(1) (with s. 141(7)-(9)); S.I. 2012/2412, art. 2(e))
- C21** S. 4(1) excluded (S.) (14.2.2013) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/50), arts. 1(1), 3, **sch. 1**, sch. 2 Pt. 1
- C22** S. 4(2) modified by Financial Services Act 1986 (c. 60, SIF 69), **s. 189(3)**, and by Banking Act 1987 (c. 22, SIF 10), **s. 95(3)**
S. 4(2) amended (25.10.1993) by 1993 c. 39, **s. 19(2)**; S.I. 1993/2632, **art. 2**.
- C23** S. 4(2)(a)(b) excluded (S.) (14.2.2013) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/50), arts. 1(1), 4, **sch. 3** (as amended (1.4.2013) by The Financial Services Act 2012 (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/472), **Sch. 2 para. 250(5)**, (S.) (17.2.2018) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2018 (S.S.I. 2018/51), arts. 1, **2(2)**, (S.) (24.3.2022) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (S.S.I. 2022/110), arts. 1(2), **2(2)(a)(b)**, and (S.) (12.5.2022) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (S.S.I. 2022/164), arts. 1(2), **2(2)**)
- C24** S. 4(3)(b) excluded by Financial Services Act 1986 (c. 60, SIF 69), **s. 189(4)**, Banking Act 1987 (c. 22, SIF 10), **s. 95(4)**, and excluded (S.) by Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 18, SIF 45:2), s. 80(3), **Sch. 7 para. 5**
- C25** S. 4(3)(b) restricted (S.) (14.2.2013) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2013 (S.S.I. 2013/50), arts. 1(1), 5, **sch. 2 Pt. 1**, sch. 4 (as amended (S.) (17.2.2018) by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2018 (S.S.I. 2018/51), arts. 1, **2(3)**)
- C26** S. 4(4): functions transferred (28.2.2003) by The Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/415), art. 2, **Sch.** (with art. 5)

5 Rehabilitation periods for particular sentences. **E+W**

- (1) The sentences excluded from rehabilitation under this Act are—
- (a) a sentence of imprisonment for life;
 - (b) a sentence of imprisonment [^{F41}youth custody][^{F42}detention in a young offender institution] or corrective training for a term exceeding [^{F43}forty eight months];
 - (c) a sentence of preventive detention; ^{F44} . . .
 - (d) a sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure or for life [^{F45}under section 90 or 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000][^{F46}or under section 209 or 218 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,][^{F47}or under section 205(2) or (3) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975,][^{F48}or a sentence of detention for a term exceeding [^{F43}forty eight months] passed under section 91 of the said Act of 2000][^{F49}(young offenders convicted of grave crimes) [^{F50}or section 209 of the said Act of 2006] or under section 206 of the said Act of 1975 (detention of children convicted on indictment)][^{F51} . . . [^{F52}and
 - (e) a sentence of custody for life]; [^{F53}and]

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- [^{F54}(f) a sentence of imprisonment for public protection under section 225 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, a sentence of detention for public protection under section 226 of that Act or an extended sentence under section [^{F55} 226A, 226B,] 227 or 228 of that Act [^{F56} (including any sentence within this paragraph passed as a result of any of sections 219 to 222 of the Armed Forces Act 2006)]]
- and any other sentence is a sentence subject to rehabilitation under this Act.

- [^{F57}(1A) In [^{F58}this section]—
- (a) references to section 209 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 include references to section 71A(4) of the Army Act 1955 or Air Force Act 1955 or section 43A(4) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957;
 - (b) the reference to section 218 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 includes a reference to section 71A(3) of the Army Act 1955 or Air Force Act 1955 or section 43A(3) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957.]
- [^{F59}(2) For the purposes of this Act and subject to subsections (3) and (4), the rehabilitation period for a sentence is the period—
- (a) beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence is imposed, and
 - (b) ending at the time listed in the following Table in relation to that sentence:

<i>Sentence</i>	<i>End of rehabilitation period for adult offenders</i>	<i>End of rehabilitation period for offenders under 18 at date of conviction</i>
A custodial sentence of more than 30 months and up to, or consisting of, 48 months	The end of the period of 7 years beginning with the day on which the sentence (including any licence period) is completed	The end of the period of 42 months beginning with the day on which the sentence (including any licence period) is completed
A custodial sentence of more than 6 months and up to, or consisting of, 30 months	The end of the period of 48 months beginning with the day on which the sentence (including any licence period) is completed	The end of the period of 24 months beginning with the day on which the sentence (including any licence period) is completed
A custodial sentence of 6 months or less	The end of the period of 24 months beginning with the day on which the	The end of the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which the

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	sentence (including any licence period) is completed	sentence (including any licence period) is completed
Removal from Her Majesty's service	The end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence is imposed	The end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence is imposed
A sentence of service detention	The end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which the sentence is completed	The end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which the sentence is completed
A fine	The end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence is imposed	The end of the period of 6 months beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence is imposed
A compensation order	The date on which the payment is made in full	The date on which the payment is made in full
A community or youth rehabilitation order	The end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day provided for by or under the order as the last day on which the order is to have effect	The end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day provided for by or under the order as the last day on which the order is to have effect
A relevant order	The day provided for by or under the order as the last day on which the order is to have effect	The day provided for by or under the order as the last day on which the order is to have effect

- (3) Where no provision is made by or under a community or youth rehabilitation order or a relevant order for the last day on which the order is to have effect, the rehabilitation period for the order is to be the period of 24 months beginning with the date of conviction.

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- (4) There is no rehabilitation period for—
- (a) an order discharging a person absolutely for an offence, or
 - (b) any other sentence in respect of a conviction where the sentence is not dealt with in the Table or under subsection (3),
- and, in such cases, references in this Act to any rehabilitation period are to be read as if the period of time were nil.
- (5) See also—
- (a) section 8AA (protection afforded to spent alternatives to prosecution), and
 - (b) Schedule 2 (protection for spent cautions).
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend column 2 or 3 of the Table or the number of months for the time being specified in subsection (3).
- (7) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) consecutive terms of imprisonment or other custodial sentences are to be treated as a single term,
 - (b) terms of imprisonment or other custodial sentences which are wholly or partly concurrent (that is terms of imprisonment or other custodial sentences imposed in respect of offences of which a person was convicted in the same proceedings) are to be treated as a single term,
 - (c) no account is to be taken of any subsequent variation, made by a court dealing with a person in respect of a suspended sentence of imprisonment, of the term originally imposed,
 - (d) no account is to be taken of any subsequent variation of the day originally provided for by or under an order as the last day on which the order is to have effect,
 - (e) no account is to be taken of any detention or supervision ordered by a court under section 104(3) of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000,
 - (f) a sentence imposed by a court outside England and Wales is to be treated as the sentence mentioned in this section to which it most closely corresponds.
- (8) In this section—
- “community or youth rehabilitation order” means—
- (a) a community order under section 177 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003,
 - (b) a service community order or overseas community order under the Armed Forces Act 2006,
 - (c) a youth rehabilitation order under Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, or
 - (d) any order of a kind superseded (whether directly or indirectly) by an order mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c),
- “custodial sentence” means—
- (a) a sentence of imprisonment,
 - (b) a sentence of detention in a young offender institution,
 - (c) a sentence of Borstal training,
 - (d) a sentence of youth custody,
 - (e) a sentence of corrective training,
 - (f) a sentence of detention under section 91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 or section 209 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,

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- (g) a detention and training order under section 100 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 or an order under section 211 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,
- (h) any sentence of a kind superseded (whether directly or indirectly) by a sentence mentioned in paragraph (f) or (g),
 - “earlier statutory order” means—
 - (a) an order under section 54 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 committing the person convicted to custody in a remand home,
 - (b) an approved school order under section 57 of that Act, or
 - (c) any order of a kind superseded (whether directly or indirectly) by an order mentioned in any of paragraphs (c) to (e) of the definition of “relevant order” or in paragraph (a) or (b) above,
 - “relevant order” means—
 - (a) an order discharging a person conditionally for an offence,
 - (b) an order binding a person over to keep the peace or be of good behaviour,
 - (c) an order under section 1(2A) of the Street Offences Act 1959,
 - (d) a hospital order under Part 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (with or without a restriction order),
 - (e) a referral order under section 16 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000,
 - (f) an earlier statutory order, or
 - (g) any order which imposes a disqualification, disability, prohibition or other penalty and is not otherwise dealt with in the Table or under subsection (3),

but does not include a reparation order under section 73 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000,

“removal from Her Majesty's service” means a sentence of dismissal with disgrace from Her Majesty's service, a sentence of dismissal from Her Majesty's service or a sentence of cashiering or discharge with ignominy,

“sentence of imprisonment” includes a sentence of penal servitude (and “term of imprisonment” is to be read accordingly),

“sentence of service detention” means—

- (a) a sentence of service detention (within the meaning given by section 374 of the Armed Forces Act 2006), or a sentence of detention corresponding to such a sentence, in respect of a conviction in service disciplinary proceedings, or
- (b) any sentence of a kind superseded (whether directly or indirectly) by a sentence mentioned in paragraph (a).]

Extent Information

- E1** This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only.

Textual Amendments

- F41** Words inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 77, **Sch. 14 para. 36(a)**
- F42** Words inserted (E.W.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 123, **Sch. 8 paras. 9, 16**
- F43** Words in s. 5(1)(b)(d) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), **ss. 139(2), 151(1)** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(a) (with art. 3)

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- F44** Word repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982](#) (c. 48, SIF 39:1), [Sch. 16](#)
- F45** Words in s. 5(1)(d) inserted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), [Sch. 9 para. 48\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F46** Words in s. 5(1)(d) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F47** Words inserted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#) (c. 62, SIF 39:1), [Sch. 7 para. 24\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- F48** Words in s. 5(1)(d) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), [Sch. 9 para. 48\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- F49** Words substituted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#) (c. 62, SIF 39:1), [Sch. 7 para. 24\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- F50** Words in s. 5(1)(d) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F51** Words in s. 5(1)(d) omitted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by virtue of [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F52** S. 5(1)(e) inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982](#) (c. 48, SIF 39:1), [Sch. 14 para. 36\(b\)](#)
- F53** Word at the end of s. 5(1)(e) inserted (4.4.2005) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003](#) (c. 53), ss. 304, 336(3), [Sch. 32 para. 18\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 42\(11\)](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended by: S.I. 2007/391; S.I. 2009/616; S.I. 2009/3111)
- F54** S. 5(1)(f) inserted (4.4.2005) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003](#) (c. 53), ss. 304, 336(3), [Sch. 32 para. 18\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 42\(11\)](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended by: S.I. 2007/391; S.I. 2009/616; S.I. 2009/3111)
- F55** Words in s. 5(1)(f) inserted (3.12.2012) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), [Sch. 21 para. 2](#); S.I. 2012/2906, [art. 2\(s\)](#)
- F56** Words in s. 5(1)(f) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F57** S. 5(1A) substituted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006](#) (c. 52), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(3\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, arts 1(2)(3), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F58** Words in s. 5(1A) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), ss. 139(3), 151(1) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))
- F59** S. 5(2)-(8) substituted (E.W.) for s. 5(2)-(11) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), ss. 139(4), 151(1) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

5 ^{F158}**[Disclosure] periods for particular sentences.** **S**

- (1) The sentences ^{F159}which are excluded sentences for the purposes of] this Act are—
- a sentence of imprisonment for life;
 - a sentence of imprisonment ^{F160}... or corrective training for a term exceeding ^{F161}48] months;
 - a sentence of preventive detention; ^{F162}...
 - a sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure or for life ^{F163}... ^{F164}under section 209 or 218 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,]] ^{F164}under section 205(2) or (3) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act ^{F165}1995], ^{F166}[or a sentence of detention for a term exceeding thirty months

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- passed under ^{F167}...^{F168}(young offenders convicted of grave crimes) ^{F167}...
[^{F50}section 209 of the said Act of 2006]^{F169}...]
- [^{F170}(da) a sentence of detention for a term exceeding 48 months passed under section 207 (detention of young offenders) or 208 (detention of children convicted on indictment) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995;]
- [^{F171}(e) a sentence of custody for life]; [^{F53}and]
- [^{F54}(f) a sentence of imprisonment for public protection under section 225 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, a sentence of detention for public protection under section 226 of that Act or an extended sentence under section [^{F55} 226A, 226B,] 227 or 228 of that Act]
- and any other sentence is a [^{F172}disclosable sentence] .
- [^{F57}(1A) In subsection (1)(d)—
- (a) references to section 209 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 include references to section 71A(4) of the Army Act 1955 or Air Force Act 1955 or section 43A(4) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957;
- (b) the reference to section 218 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 includes a reference to section 71A(3) of the Army Act 1955 or Air Force Act 1955 or section 43A(3) of the Naval Discipline Act 1957.]
- [^{F173}(1B) In subsection (1), “disclosable sentence” means a sentence imposed in relation to a conviction in respect of which a person may, under this Act, become a protected person.]
- [^{F174}(2A) For the purposes of this Act, the disclosure period applicable to a sentence specified in the first column of Table A is—
- (a) where the sentence was imposed on a person who was 18 years of age or older at the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence was imposed, the period specified in the second column of Table A in relation to that sentence,
- (b) where the sentence was imposed on a person who was under 18 years of age at the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence was imposed, the period specified in the third column of Table A in relation to that sentence.
- (2B) For the purposes of subsection (2A), the disclosure period applicable to a sentence is to be reckoned from the date of the conviction in respect of which the sentence was imposed.
- (2C) Subsection (2A) applies to Table B as it applies to Table A.
- (2D) This subsection applies to a sentence which is—
- (a) not dealt with in—
- (i) subsections (1) to (2C) (including in Table A or Table B), or
- (ii) any of sections 5C to 5J,
- (b) imposed on a person in respect of a conviction, and
- (c) given by way of an order—
- (i) imposing on the person any disqualification, disability, prohibition, requirement or restriction, or
- (ii) which is otherwise intended to regulate the person's behaviour.
- (2E) The disclosure period applicable to a sentence to which subsection (2D) applies is—
- (a) in the case of an order—

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- (i) containing provision enabling the date on which the disqualification, disability, prohibition, requirement, restriction or regulation (as the case may be) ceases or ceased to have effect to be determined, or
- (ii) containing provision for the disqualification, disability, prohibition, requirement, restriction or regulation (as the case may be) to have effect for an indefinite period (including the lifetime of a person) or without limit of time,

the period beginning with the date of the conviction and ending on the date on which the disqualification, disability, prohibition, requirement, restriction or regulation (as the case may be) ceases or ceased to have effect,

- (b) in the case of any other order, a period of 2 years beginning with the date of the conviction.

(2F) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) consecutive terms of—
 - (i) imprisonment or other custodial sentences, or
 - (ii) detention under section 209 of the Armed Forces Act 2006,
 are to be treated as a single term,
- (b) terms of imprisonment, or of detention, which are—
 - (i) wholly or partly concurrent, and
 - (ii) imposed in respect of offences of which a person was convicted in the same proceedings,
 are to be treated as a single term,
- (c) no account is to be taken of any subsequent variation, made by a court in dealing with a person in respect of a suspended sentence of imprisonment, of the term originally imposed, and
- (d) a sentence imposed by a court outwith Scotland is to be treated as the sentence mentioned—
 - (i) in this section,
 - (ii) in Table A or Table B, or
 - (iii) in any of sections 5C to 5J,
 to which it most closely corresponds.

(2G) References in this section, Table A, sections 5D to 5H and section 5J to a sentence provided for in a particular enactment include references to any sentence of a kind superseded (whether directly or indirectly) by such a sentence.]

^{F175}(10A)

(11) The Secretary of State may by order—

- (a) substitute different periods or terms for any of the periods or terms mentioned in subsections (1) to [^{F176}(2E), in Table A or Table B or in any of sections 5C, 5D, 5H and 5I;] and
- (b) substitute a different age for the age mentioned in subsection [^{F177}(2A)] .

[^{F178}(12) In this section—

“Table A” means the table in section 5A,

“Table B” means the table in section 5B,

“custodial sentence” means—

- (a) a sentence of imprisonment,

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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- (b) a sentence of detention under section 44, 207 or 208 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995,
 - (c) a sentence of Borstal training,
 - (d) a sentence of corrective training,
- “sentence of imprisonment” includes a sentence of penal servitude (and references to terms of imprisonment are to be read accordingly).]

Extent Information

- E3** This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only.

Textual Amendments

- F46** Words in s. 5(1)(d) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, [arts 1\(2\)\(3\)](#), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F50** Words in s. 5(1)(d) inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, [arts 1\(2\)\(3\)](#), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F53** Word at the end of s. 5(1)(e) inserted (4.4.2005) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 53\)](#), ss. 304, 336(3), [Sch. 32 para. 18\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 42\(11\)](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended by: S.I. 2007/391; S.I. 2009/616; S.I. 2009/3111)
- F54** S. 5(1)(f) inserted (4.4.2005) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 53\)](#), ss. 304, 336(3), [Sch. 32 para. 18\(2\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 42\(11\)](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended by: S.I. 2007/391; S.I. 2009/616; S.I. 2009/3111)
- F55** Words in s. 5(1)(f) inserted (3.12.2012) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 21 para. 2](#); S.I. 2012/2906, [art. 2\(s\)](#)
- F57** S. 5(1A) substituted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 65\(3\)](#); S.I. 2009/812, [art. 3](#); S.I. 2009/1167, [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in S.I. 2009/1059, [arts 1\(2\)\(3\)](#), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))
- F158** Word in s. 5 heading substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(9\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F159** Words in s. 5(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(8\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F160** Words in s. 5(1)(b) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F161** Word in s. 5(1)(b) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F162** Word repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)
- F163** Words in s. 5(1)(d) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F164** Words inserted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(c. 62, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 24\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- F165** Word in s. 5(1)(d) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F166** Words in s. 5(1)(d) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), [Sch. 9 para. 48\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- F167** Words in s. 5(1)(d) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by virtue of [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch. \(with reg. 3\)](#)
- F168** Words substituted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(c. 62, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 24\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.**Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)*

- F169** Words in s. 5(1)(d) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 18(2)(b)(iv)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F170** S. 5(1)(da) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 18(2)(c)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F171** S. 5(1)(e) inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **Sch. 14 para. 36(b)**
- F172** Words in s. 5(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(8)(a)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F173** S. 5(1B) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(8)(b)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F174** S. 5(2A)-(2G) substituted for s. 5(2)-(10) (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 19(2)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F175** S. 5(10A) repealed (S.) (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4)(5), Sch. 4 para. 23(3)(d), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 1996/3201, **art. 3(7)**
- F176** Words in s. 5(11)(a) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 19(3)(a)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F177** Word in s. 5(11)(b) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 19(3)(b)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F178** S. 5(12) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 19(4)**, 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C36** S. 5 modified (S.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 124, Sch. 8 para. 16, **Sch. 9 para. 8**

[^{F60}5A Table A – disclosure periods: ordinary cases

(1) This is Table A as referred to in section 5(2A)—

TABLE A

DISCLOSURE PERIODS: ORDINARY CASES

<i>Sentence</i>	<i>Disclosure period – aged 18 or over</i>	<i>Disclosure period – aged under 18</i>
A custodial sentence not exceeding 12 months	The term of the sentence plus 2 years	The term of the sentence plus 1 year
A custodial sentence exceeding 12 months but not exceeding 30 months	The term of the sentence plus 4 years	The term of the sentence plus 2 years
A custodial sentence exceeding 30 months but not exceeding 48 months	The term of the sentence plus 6 years	The term of the sentence plus 3 years
A fine	12 months	6 months
A compensation order under section 249 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995	12 months	6 months
An order for endorsement made by a court in relation	5 years	2½ years

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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to an offence mentioned
in schedule 2 of the Road
Traffic Offenders Act
1988

Any sentence—	12 months	6 months
(a) not mentioned above in this Table or in Table B, or		
(b) other than one to which section 5(2D), or any of sections 5C to 5J, applies		

(2) In Table A, “custodial sentence” and “Table B” have the same meanings as given by section 5(12).]

Textual Amendments

F60 S. 5A inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 20(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), **reg. 2**, **sch.** (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F61}**5B** **Table B – disclosure periods: service disciplinary sentences**

This is Table B as referred to in section 5(2C)—

TABLE B

DISCLOSURE PERIODS: SERVICE DISCIPLINARY SENTENCES

<i>Sentence</i>	<i>Disclosure period – aged 18 or over</i>	<i>Disclosure period – aged under 18</i>
A sentence of cashiering, discharge with ignominy or dismissal with disgrace from Her Majesty's service	10 years	5 years
A sentence of dismissal from Her Majesty's service	7 years	3½ years
Any sentence of service detention within the meaning of the Armed Forces Act 2006, or any sentence of detention corresponding to such a sentence, in respect of a conviction in service disciplinary proceedings	5 years	2½ years
A custodial order under section 71AA of the Army Act 1955 or the	7 years	7 years

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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Air Force Act 1955, or
under section 43AA of
the Naval Discipline Act
1957, where the maximum
period of detention
specified in the order is
more than 6 months

A custodial order under
schedule 5A of the Army
Act 1955 or the Air
Force Act 1955, or under
schedule 4A of the Naval
Discipline Act 1957,
where the maximum
period of detention
specified in the order is
more than 6 months

7 years

7 years

A sentence of detention
for a term exceeding 6
months but not exceeding
30 months passed under
section 71A(4) of the
Army Act 1955 or
Air Force Act 1955,
section 43A(4) of the
Naval Discipline Act
1957 or section 209 of the
Armed Forces Act 2006

5 years

5 years

A sentence of detention
for a term not exceeding
6 months passed under
section 71A(4) of the
Army Act 1955 or
Air Force Act 1955,
section 43A(4) of the
Naval Discipline Act
1957 or section 209 of the
Armed Forces Act 2006

3 years

3 years

A custodial order under
any of the schedules of
the Army Act 1955, the
Air Force Act 1955 or the
Naval Discipline Act 1957
mentioned above, where
the maximum period of
detention specified in the
order is 6 months or less

3 years

3 years

A custodial order under
section 71AA of the Army
Act 1955 or Air Force Act

3 years

3 years]

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1955, or section 43AA
of the Naval Discipline
Act 1957, where the
maximum period of
detention specified in the
order is 6 months or less

Textual Amendments

F61 S. 5B inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 21(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F62}5C Disclosure period: caution for good behaviour

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where, in respect of a conviction, a person was ordained to find caution for good behaviour in respect of a period (“the caution period”).
- (2) The disclosure period applicable to the sentence is—
 - (a) where the person was 18 years of age or older at the date of the conviction, whichever is the longer of—
 - (i) 6 months from the date of the conviction,
 - (ii) the length of the caution period,
 - (b) where the person was under 18 years of age at the date of the conviction, whichever is the longer of—
 - (i) 3 months from the date of the conviction,
 - (ii) the length of the caution period.]

Textual Amendments

F62 S. 5C inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 22(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F63}5D Disclosure period: particular court orders

- (1) Where, in respect of a conviction, an order listed in subsection (2) was imposed on a person, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is—
 - (a) where the person was 18 years of age or older at the date of the conviction, whichever is the longer of—
 - (i) one year from the date of the conviction,
 - (ii) a period beginning with that date and ending when the order ceases to have effect,
 - (b) where the person was under 18 years of age at the date of the conviction, whichever is the longer of—
 - (i) six months from the date of the conviction,
 - (ii) a period beginning with that date and ending when the order ceases to have effect.
- (2) The orders are—

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- (a) a community payback order under section 227A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995,
 - (b) a drug treatment and testing order under section 234B of that Act,
 - (c) a restriction of liberty order under section 245A of that Act.
- (3) In subsection (1)(a)(ii) and (b)(ii), the reference to when the order ceases to have effect is—
- (a) in the case of a community payback order, a reference to when the requirement imposed by the order ceases or ceased to have effect or otherwise requires or required to be complied with,
 - (b) in the case of a drug treatment and testing order or restriction of liberty order, a reference to when the order ceases or ceased to have effect.]

Textual Amendments

F63 S. 5D inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 23(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F64}5E Disclosure period: adjournment or deferral]

- (1) Where, after convicting a person, a court adjourns a case under section 201 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 or defers sentence under section 202 of that Act, the adjournment or deferral is to be treated as a sentence for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The disclosure period applicable to a sentence mentioned in subsection (1) is a period beginning with the date of the conviction and ending on the date a relevant sentence in respect of the conviction is imposed on the person.
- (3) In subsection (2), a “relevant sentence” is any sentence other than an adjournment or deferral (or, where applicable, a further adjournment or deferral) imposed on the person in respect of the conviction.]

Textual Amendments

F64 S. 5E inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 24(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F65}5F Disclosure period for certain mental health orders]

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where, further to the making of a compulsion order as mentioned in subsection (1) of section 59 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 in relation to a person, a restriction order under that section is made in respect of the person.
- (2) The disclosure period applicable to the restriction order is a period beginning with the date of the person's conviction in respect of which the compulsion order was made and ending on the date the restriction order ceases or ceased to have effect.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies where, by virtue of subsection (1)(b) of section 57 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995—

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- (a) a compulsion order is made under subsection (2)(a) of that section in relation to a person authorising the person's detention in a hospital, and
 - (b) a restriction order under subsection (2)(b) of that section is, in addition to the compulsion order, made in respect of the person.
- (4) The disclosure period applicable to the restriction order is a period beginning with the date of the person's conviction in respect of which the compulsion order was made and ending on the date the restriction order ceases or ceased to have effect.
- (5) Where, in respect of a conviction, an order listed in subsection (6) was made in relation to a person, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is a period beginning with the date of the conviction and ending on the date a relevant sentence in respect of the conviction is imposed on the person.
- (6) The orders are—
 - (a) an assessment order under section 52D or 52E of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995,
 - (b) a treatment order under section 52M or 52N of that Act, or
 - (c) an interim compulsion order—
 - (i) under section 53 of that Act, or
 - (ii) if arising by virtue of subsection (1)(b) of section 57 of that Act, under subsection (2)(bb) of that section.
- (7) In subsection (5), a “relevant sentence” is any sentence other than an order mentioned in subsection (6) (or, where applicable, a further such order).]

Textual Amendments

F65 S. 5F inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. **25(2)**, **63(2)** (with s. 37); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

[^{F66}**5G Disclosure period: compulsion orders**

- (1) The disclosure period applicable to a compulsion order—
 - (a) if arising by virtue of subsection (1)(b) of section 57 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, under subsection (2)(a) of that section, or
 - (b) under section 57A of that Act,is a period beginning with the date of the conviction in respect of which the order was made and ending on the date the order ceases or ceased to have effect.
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to sections 164A and 167A of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.
- (3) Where the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland makes a determination under section 167A(3) of that Act in relation to a person—
 - (a) the person is, with effect from the date on which the disclosure period applicable to the compulsion order ends by virtue of that section, to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a protected person, and
 - (b) the person's conviction in respect of which the compulsion order was made is for those purposes to be treated as spent.
- (4) Subsection (3) is subject to section 6(2).]

*Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.**Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)***Textual Amendments****F66** S. 5G inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 26(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))**[^{F67} 5H Disclosure period: orders relating to juvenile offenders**

- (1) Where, in respect of a conviction, an order mentioned in subsection (2) was imposed on a person, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is 1 year from the date of the conviction.
- (2) The order is an order under section 61 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937—
 - (a) to send the person to an approved school, or
 - (b) to commit the person to the care of a fit person.]

Textual Amendments**F67** S. 5H inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 27(2), 63(2)** (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245](#), [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))**[^{F68} 5I Disclosure period: service disciplinary orders**

- (1) Where, in respect of a conviction, a service community order, or an overseas community order, under the Armed Forces Act 2006 was made, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is—
 - (a) where the person was 18 years of age or older at the date of the conviction, 5 years from the date of the conviction,
 - (b) where the person was under 18 years of age at the date of the conviction, whichever is the longer of—
 - (i) 2½ years from the date of the conviction,
 - (ii) a period beginning with that date and ending when the order in question ceases or ceased to have effect.
- (2) Where, in respect of a conviction, a community supervision order under schedule 5A of the Army Act 1955 or the Air Force Act 1955 or under schedule 4A of the Naval Discipline Act 1957 was imposed, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is whichever is the longer of—
 - (a) 1 year from the date of the conviction,
 - (b) a period beginning with that date and ending when the order ceases or ceased to have effect.
- (3) Where, in respect of a conviction, an order under section 211 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 was made in respect of a person, the disclosure period applicable to the sentence is—
 - (a) where the person was 15 years of age or older at the date of the conviction—
 - (i) 5 years if the order was for a term exceeding 6 months,
 - (ii) 3½ years if the order was for a term of 6 months or less,

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- (b) where the person was under 15 years of age at the date of the conviction, a period beginning with that date and ending 1 year after the date on which the order ceases to have effect.]

Textual Amendments

F68 S. 51 inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\), ss. 28\(2\), 63\(2\)](#) (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

[^{F69}5J] Sentences to which no disclosure period applies

- (1) There is no disclosure period applicable to—
- (a) an order discharging a person absolutely for an offence,
 - (b) the dismissal of a person with an admonition,
 - (c) a guardianship order—
 - (i) if arising by virtue of subsection (1)(b) of section 57 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, under subsection (2)(c) of that section, or
 - (ii) under section 58(1A) or (3) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995,
 - (d) the discharge by a children's hearing under section 69(1)(b) and (12) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 of the referral of a child's case,
 - (e) a supervision requirement under any provision of that Act,
 - (f) the discharge by a children's hearing or, as the case may be, by the sheriff of the referral of a child's case to a children's hearing under section 91(3)(b), 93(2)(b) or 119(3)(b) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, or
 - (g) a compulsory supervision order under any provision of that Act.
- (2) In relation to any of the cases mentioned in subsection (1), references in this Act to any disclosure period are to be read as if the period of time were nil.]

Textual Amendments

F69 S. 5J inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\), ss. 29\(2\), 63\(2\)](#) (with [s. 37](#)); [S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

6 The [^{F70}rehabilitation][^{F70}disclosure] period applicable to a conviction.

- (1) Where only one sentence is imposed in respect of a conviction [^{F71}(not being a sentence excluded from rehabilitation under this Act)] the [^{F72}rehabilitation][^{F72}disclosure] period applicable to the conviction is, subject to the following provisions of this section, the period applicable to the sentence in accordance with [^{F73}section 5][^{F73}sections 5 to 5I] above.
- (2) Where more than one sentence is imposed in respect of a conviction (whether or not in the same proceedings) [^{F74}and none of the sentences imposed is excluded from rehabilitation under this Act,] then, subject to the following provisions of this section, if the periods applicable to those sentences in accordance with [^{F73}section 5][^{F73}sections 5 to 5I] above differ, the [^{F75}rehabilitation][^{F75}disclosure]

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period applicable to the conviction shall be the longer or the longest (as the case may be) of those periods.

[^{F76}(2A) In subsections (1) and (2), the references to sentences do not include excluded sentences.]

(3) [^{F77}Without prejudice to subsection (2) above, where in respect of a conviction a person was conditionally discharged [^{F78}or [^{F79}a probation order was made]] and after the end of the rehabilitation period applicable to the conviction in accordance with subsection (1) or (2) above he is dealt with, in consequence of a breach of conditional discharge [^{F80}[^{F81}or a breach of the order]], for the offence for which the order for conditional discharge [^{F78}or probation order] was made was made, then, if the rehabilitation period applicable to the conviction in accordance with subsection (2) above (taking into account any sentence imposed when he is so dealt with) ends later than the rehabilitation period previously applicable to the conviction, he shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as not having become a rehabilitated person in respect of that conviction, and the conviction shall for those purposes be treated as not having become spent, in relation to any period falling before the end of the new rehabilitation period.]

[^{F82}(3ZA) Subsection (3ZB) applies where—

- (a) an order listed in subsection (3ZC) is imposed on a person in respect of a conviction for an offence,
- (b) after the expiry of the disclosure period applicable to the conviction in accordance with subsection (1) or (2) (“the original disclosure period”), a further sentence for the offence is imposed on the person in consequence of breaching the order, and
- (c) by virtue of the further sentence, the disclosure period applicable to the conviction in accordance with subsection (2) (“the new disclosure period”) ends later than the original disclosure period.

(3ZB) Despite the expiry of the original disclosure period, the person is not to be treated for the purposes of this Act as a protected person in respect of the conviction until the expiry of the new disclosure period (and accordingly the conviction is not to be treated as spent until that period has expired).

(3ZC) The list is—

- (a) an order for conditional discharge,
- (b) a community payback order under section 227A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995,
- (c) a drug treatment and testing order under section 234B of that Act,
- (d) a restriction of liberty order under section 245A of that Act.

(3ZD) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify the list in subsection (3ZC) by—

- (a) amending an entry,
- (b) removing an entry,
- (c) adding an entry.

(3ZE) Regulations under subsection (3ZD) are subject to the affirmative procedure.]

[^{F83}(3A) Without prejudice to subsection (2), where—

- (a) an order is made under section 1(2A) of the Street Offences Act 1959 in respect of a conviction,

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- (b) after the end of the [F84rehabilitation][F84disclosure] period applicable to the conviction the offender is dealt with again for the offence for which that order was made, and
- (c) the [F84rehabilitation][F84disclosure] period applicable to the conviction in accordance with subsection (2) (taking into account any sentence imposed when so dealing with the offender) ends later than the [F84rehabilitation][F84disclosure] period previously applicable to the conviction,

the offender shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as not having become a [F85rehabilitated][F85protected] person in respect of that conviction, and that conviction shall for those purposes be treated as not having become spent, in relation to any period falling before the end of the new [F84rehabilitation][F84disclosure] period.]

(4) [F86Where—

- (a) during the disclosure period applicable to a conviction, the person convicted is convicted of a further offence, and
- (b) the disclosure periods applicable to the two convictions under this section would end on different dates,

the disclosure period which would end earlier is extended so as to end at the same time as the other disclosure period (but this rule is subject to subsections (4A) to (5B)).]

[F87(4A) Subsection (4B) applies where—

- (a) in relation to the conviction of a person (“the first conviction”) the court adjourns the case, or defers sentence,
- (b) during the disclosure period applicable to the adjournment or deferral, the person is convicted of a further offence,
- (c) a relevant sentence is imposed on the person in respect of the first conviction, and
- (d) there is, by virtue of section 5J, no disclosure period applicable to that sentence.

(4B) Section 4 does not operate so as to extend the disclosure period applicable to the first conviction.

(4C) In subsection (4A)—

- (a) references to adjournments and deferrals are to those matters as mentioned in section 5E(1),
- (b) a “relevant sentence” is any sentence other than an adjournment or deferral (as mentioned in section 5E(1)) or, where applicable, a further such adjournment or deferral.]

(5) [F88A disclosure period is not extended in accordance with subsection (4) so as to end at the same time as another disclosure period if—

- (a) the other disclosure period is applicable in accordance with section 5(2E) to an order—
 - (i) imposing on a person any disqualification, disability, prohibition, requirement or restriction, or
 - (ii) which is otherwise intended to regulate behaviour, and
- (b) that order is the only sentence imposed in respect of the conviction to which the other disclosure period is applicable.

(5A) Subsection (5B) applies where—

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- (a) more than one sentence is imposed in respect of a conviction (whether or not in the same proceedings),
- (b) none of the sentences is an excluded sentence, and
- (c) one of the sentences is an order mentioned in subsection (5) in respect of which the disclosure period is applicable in accordance with section 5(2E).

(5B) In determining whether the disclosure period applicable to another conviction is, in accordance with subsection (4), extended by virtue of the disclosure period applicable to the conviction mentioned in subsection (5A)(a), the disclosure period applicable to the order is to be disregarded.]

[^{F90}(6) ^{F91} . . . [^{F92}In subsection (4)(a), the reference to a conviction for a further offence does not include—]

- (a) any conviction in England and Wales of [^{F93}a summary offence or of a scheduled offence (within the meaning of [^{F94}section 22 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980]) tried summarily in pursuance of subsection (2) of that section (summary trial where value involved is small);]

[^{F95}(b) any conviction by or before a criminal court in summary proceedings;]

[^{F96}(bb) any conviction in service disciplinary proceedings for an offence listed in [^{F97}Schedule 1];]

- (c) any conviction by or before a court outside [^{F98}Scotland] of an offence in respect of conduct which, if it had taken place in [^{F99}Scotland], would not have constituted an offence under the law in force in [^{F100}Scotland].]

^{F101}(7)

Textual Amendments

- F70** Word in s. 6 heading substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(11\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F71** Words in s. 6(1) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(10\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F72** Word in s. 6(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(10\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F73** Words in s. 6(1)(2) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), [ss. 30\(2\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F74** Words in s. 6(2) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(10\)\(b\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F75** Word in s. 6(2) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(10\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F76** S. 6(2A) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(10\)\(c\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F77** S. 6(3) repealed (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), [ss. 30\(3\)](#), 63(2) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F78** Words in s. 6(3) repealed (S.) (1.2.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) (asp 13), [ss. 14\(2\)](#), 206(1), [sch. 2 para. 32\(3\)](#); S.S.I. 2010/413, [art. 2\(1\)](#), Sch. (with art. 3(1))
- F79** Words in s. 6(3) substituted (1.4.2001) by 2000 c. 43, s. 74, [Sch. 7 Pt. II para. 50\(a\)](#); S.I. 2001/919, [art. 2\(f\)\(ii\)](#)
- F80** Words in s. 6(3) repealed (S.) (1.2.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) (asp 13), [ss. 14\(2\)](#), 206(1), [sch. 2 para. 32\(3\)](#); S.S.I. 2010/413, [art. 2\(1\)](#), Sch. (with art. 3(1))
- F81** Words in s. 6(3) substituted (1.4.2001) by 2000 c. 43, s. 74, [Sch. 7 Pt. II para. 50\(b\)](#); S.I. 2001/919, [art. 2\(f\)\(ii\)](#)

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- F82** S. 6(3ZA)-(3ZE) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(4), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F83** S. 6(3A) inserted (1.4.2010) by Policing and Crime Act 2009 (c. 26), **ss. 18(3), 116(1)**; S.I. 2010/507, **art. 5(e)** (with art. 6)
- F84** Word in s. 6(3A) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(10)(d)(i)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F85** Word in s. 6(3A) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(10)(d)(ii)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F86** S. 6(4) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(5), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F87** S. 6(4A)-(4C) inserted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(6), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F88** S. 6(5)-(5B) substituted for s. 6(5) (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(7), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F89** Words in s. 6(5) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 139(5)(a), 151(1)** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(a) (with art. 3)
- F90** S. 6(6) omitted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), **ss. 139(5)(b), 151(1)** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(a)
- F91** Words in s. 6(6) repealed (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, ss. 13(3)(a), 35(2), **Sch. 7 Pt. III**; S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F92** Words in s. 6(6) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(8)(a), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F93** Words substituted by Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45), s. 65(7), **Sch. 12**
- F94** Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 7 para. 134**
- F95** S. 6(6)(b) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(8)(b), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F96** S. 6(6)(bb) inserted (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, s. 13(3)(b); S.I. 1996/2474, **art. 2**
- F97** Words in s. 6(6) substituted (E.W.) (19.12.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 49, 153(7), **Sch. 10 para. 2** (with Sch. 27 para. 19); S.I. 2008/3260, **art. 2(1)(d)**; and those same words substituted (S.) (1.11.2011) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), ss. 203, 206(1), **Sch. 7 para. 9**; S.S.I. 2011/354, **art. 2(1)**, **Sch.**
- F98** Word in s. 6(6)(c) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(8)(c)(i), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F99** Word in s. 6(6)(c) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(8)(c)(ii), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F100** Word in s. 6(6)(c) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), **ss. 30(8)(c)(iii), 63(2)** (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F101** S. 6(7) repealed (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 46, s. 35(2), **Sch. 7 Pt. III**; S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2, **Sch.**

7 Limitations on rehabilitation under this Act, etc. **E+W**

(1) Nothing in section 4(1) above shall affect—

- (a) any right of Her Majesty, by virtue of Her Royal prerogative or otherwise, to grant a free pardon, to quash any conviction or sentence, or to commute any sentence;
- (b) the enforcement by any process or proceedings of any fine or other sum adjudged to be paid by or imposed on a spent conviction;
- (c) the issue of any process for the purpose of proceedings in respect of any breach of a condition or requirement applicable to a sentence imposed in respect of a spent conviction; or

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- (d) the operation of any enactment by virtue of which, in consequence of any conviction, a person is subject, otherwise than by way of sentence, to any disqualification, disability, prohibition or other penalty the period of which extends beyond the rehabilitation period applicable in accordance with section 6 above to the conviction.
- (2) Nothing in section 4(1) above shall affect the determination of any issue, or prevent the admission or requirement of any evidence, relating to a person's previous convictions or to circumstances ancillary thereto—
- (a) in any criminal proceedings before a court in [^{F102}England and Wales] (including any appeal or reference in a criminal matter);
- (b) in any service disciplinary proceedings or in any proceedings on appeal from any service disciplinary proceedings;
- [^{F103}(bb) in any proceedings under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, or on appeal from any such proceedings;]
- ^{F104}[^{F105}(c) in any proceedings relating to adoption, the marriage of any minor, [^{F106}or the formation of a civil partnership by any minor,] the exercise of the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court with respect to minors or the provision by any person of accommodation, care or schooling for minors;
- [^{F105}(d) in any proceedings relating to the variation or discharge of a youth rehabilitation order under Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, or on appeal from any such proceedings;]
- (cc) in any proceedings brought under the Children Act 1989;]
- (e) in any proceedings before a children's hearing under the ^{M10}Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 or on appeal from any such hearing; or
- (f) in any proceedings in which he is a party or a witness, provided that, on the occasion when the issue or the admission or requirement of the evidence falls to be determined, he consents to the determination of the issue or, as the case may be, the admission or requirement of the evidence notwithstanding the provisions of section 4(1).
- ^{F107}(g) [^{F108} or
- (h) in any proceedings brought under Part 7 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (criminal memoirs etc).]
- ^{F109} ^{F110}
- (3) If at any stage in any proceedings before a judicial authority in [^{F111}England and Wales] (not being proceedings to which, by virtue of any of paragraphs (a) to (e) of subsection (2) above or of any order for the time being in force under subsection (4) below, section 4(1) above has no application, or proceedings to which section 8 below applies) the authority is satisfied, in the light of any considerations which appear to it to be relevant (including any evidence which has been or may thereafter be put before it), that justice cannot be done in the case except by admitting or requiring evidence relating to a person's spent convictions or to circumstances ancillary thereto, that authority may admit or, as the case may be, require the evidence in question notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of section 4 above, and may determine any issue to which the evidence relates in disregard, so far as necessary, of those provisions.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order exclude the application of section 4(1) above in relation to any proceedings specified in the order (other than proceedings to which section 8 below applies) to such extent and for such purposes as may be so specified.

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- (5) No order made by a court with respect to any person otherwise than on a conviction shall be included in any list or statement of that person's previous convictions given or made to any court which is considering how to deal with him in respect of any offence.

Extent Information

- E2** This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only.

Textual Amendments

- F102** Words in s. 7(2)(a) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 6\(2\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F103** S. 7(2)(bb) substituted (E.W.) (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), ss. 139, 141, [Sch. 6 para. 19](#); S.I. 2004/874, [art. 2](#)
- F104** S. 7(2)(c)(cc) substituted (E.W.) (14.10.1991) for s. 7(2)(c) by [Children Act 1991 \(c. 41\)](#), SIF 20), s. 108, [Sch. 13 para. 35\(2\)](#); S.I. 1991/828, [art. 3\(2\)](#)
- F105** S. 7(2)(d) substituted (30.11.2009) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 6(2), 153(7), [Sch. 4 para. 22](#); S.I. 2009/3074, [art. 2\(p\)\(iii\)](#)
- F106** Words in s. 7(2)(c) inserted (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004](#), ss. 261(1), 263(10)(b), {Sch. 27 para. 53}; S.I. 2005/3175, [art. 2\(2\)](#)
- F107** S. 7(2)(g) added by [Banking Act 1979 \(c. 37\)](#), SIF 10), s. 43(4) and repealed by [Banking Act 1987 \(c. 22\)](#), SIF 10), s. 108(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. I](#)
- F108** S. 7(2)(h) and word added (6.4.2010) by [Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(c. 25\)](#), ss. 158(1), 182(5) (with s. 180); S.I. 2010/816, [art. 2](#), [Sch. para. 11](#)
- F109** Words in s. 7(2) repealed (S.) (1.11.1996) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4)(5), [Sch. 4 para. 23\(4\)\(c\)](#), [Sch. 5](#); S.I. 1996/2203, [art. 3\(3\)](#), [Sch.](#)
- F110** Words in s. 7(2) repealed (S.) (25.9.1991) by [Age of Legal Capacity \(Scotland\) Act 1991 \(c. 50\)](#), SIF 49:8), ss. 10(2), 11(2), [Sch. 2](#)
- F111** Words in s. 7(3) substituted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 6\(3\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C27** S. 7(4): functions transferred (28.2.2003) by [The Scotland Act 1998 \(Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.\) Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/415\)](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#) (with art. 5)

Marginal Citations

- M10** 1968 c. 49.

7 Limitations on ^{F179}protection under section 4(1) | **S**

- (1) Nothing in section 4(1) above shall affect—

- any right of Her Majesty, by virtue of Her Royal prerogative or otherwise, to grant a free pardon, to quash any conviction or sentence, or to commute any sentence;
- the enforcement by any process or proceedings of any fine or other sum adjudged to be paid by or imposed on a spent conviction;
- the issue of any process for the purpose of proceedings in respect of any breach of a condition or requirement applicable to a sentence imposed in respect of a spent conviction; or

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- (d) the operation of any enactment by virtue of which, in consequence of any conviction, a person is subject, otherwise than by way of sentence, to any disqualification, disability, prohibition ^{F180}requirement, restriction or other way of regulating the person's behaviour] the period of which extends beyond the ^{F181}disclosure] period applicable in accordance with section 6 above to the conviction.
- (2) Nothing in section 4(1) above shall affect the determination of any issue, or prevent the admission or requirement of any evidence, relating to a person's previous convictions or to circumstances ancillary thereto—
- (a) in any criminal proceedings before a court in ^{F182}Scotland] (including any appeal or reference in a criminal matter);
- (b) in any service disciplinary proceedings or in any proceedings on appeal from any service disciplinary proceedings;
- ^{F183}(bb) in any proceedings on an application for ^{F184}an order under section 2, 2A or 20] of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 or in any appeal against the making of such an order;]
- ^{F185}(bc) in any proceedings on an application under section 2, 4 or 5 of the Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 9) or in any appeal under section 6 of that Act;]
- ^{F186}(c) in any proceedings relating to parental responsibilities or parental rights (within the meaning of section 1(3) and section 2(4) respectively of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995), guardianship, adoption or the provision by any person of accommodation, care or schooling for children under the age of 18 years;
- (cc) in any proceedings under Part II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;]
- ^{F105}(d) in any proceedings relating to the variation or discharge of a youth rehabilitation order under Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, or on appeal from any such proceedings;]
- ^{F187}(e)
- (f) in any proceedings in which he is a party or a witness, provided that, on the occasion when the issue or the admission or requirement of the evidence falls to be determined, he consents to the determination of the issue or, as the case may be, the admission or requirement of the evidence notwithstanding the provisions of section 4(1).
- ^{F188}(g)^{F108} or
- (h) in any proceedings brought under Part 7 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (criminal memoirs etc).]
- ^{F109}^{F110}
- (3) If at any stage in any proceedings before a judicial authority in ^{F189}Scotland] (not being proceedings to which, by virtue of any of paragraphs (a) to (e) of subsection (2) above or of any order for the time being in force under subsection (4) below, section 4(1) above has no application, or proceedings to which section 8 below applies) the authority is satisfied, in the light of any considerations which appear to it to be relevant (including any evidence which has been or may thereafter be put before it), that justice cannot be done in the case except by admitting or requiring evidence relating to a person's spent convictions or to circumstances ancillary thereto, that authority may admit or, as the case may be, require the evidence in question notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of section 4 above, and may determine any issue to which the evidence relates in disregard, so far as necessary, of those provisions.

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- (4) The Secretary of State may by order exclude the application of section 4(1) above in relation to any proceedings specified in the order (other than proceedings to which section 8 below applies) to such extent and for such purposes as may be so specified.
- (5) No order made by a court with respect to any person otherwise than on a conviction shall be included in any list or statement of that person's previous convictions given or made to any court which is considering how to deal with him in respect of any offence.

Extent Information

- E4** This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only.

Textual Amendments

- F105** S. 7(2)(d) substituted (30.11.2009) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 6(2), 153(7), **Sch. 4 para. 22**; S.I. 2009/3074, **art. 2(p)(iii)**
- F108** S. 7(2)(h) and word added (6.4.2010) by Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (c. 25), **ss. 158(1)**, 182(5) (with s. 180); S.I. 2010/816, **art. 2**, **Sch. para. 11**
- F109** Words in s. 7(2) repealed (S.) (1.11.1996) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4)(5), **Sch. 4 para. 23(4)(c)**, **Sch. 5**; S.I. 1996/2203, **art. 3(3)**, **Sch.**
- F110** Words in s. 7(2) repealed (S.) (25.9.1991) by Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 50, SIF 49:8), ss. 10(2), 11(2), **Sch. 2**
- F179** Words in s. 7 heading substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(13)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F180** Words in s. 7(1)(d) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(12)(a)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F181** Word in s. 7(1)(d) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(12)(b)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F182** Word in s. 7(2)(a) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 25 para. 16(2)** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F183** S. 7(2)(bb) inserted (1.12.1998) by 1998 c. 37, s. 119, **Sch. 8 para. 36**; S.I. 1998/2327, **art. 4(1)(k)**
- F184** Words in s. 7(2)(bb) substituted (2.12.2002) by Police Reform Act 2002 (c. 30), s. 107, **Sch. 7 para. 4**; S.I. 2002/2750, **art. 2(b)(ii)**
- F185** S. 7(2)(bc) inserted (S.) (13.12.2010) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), **ss. 104**, 206(1); S.S.I. 2010/413, **art. 2(1)**, **Sch.**
- F186** S. 7(2)(c)(cc) substituted (S.) (1.11.1996) for s. 7(2)(c) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4), **Sch. 4 para. 23(4)(a)**; S.I. 1996/2203, art. 3(3), **Sch.**
- F187** S. 7(2)(e) repealed (S.) (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 36, s. 105(4)(5), **Sch. 4 para. 23(4)(b)**, **Sch. 5**; S.I. 1996/3201, **art. 3(7)**
- F188** S. 7(2)(g) added by Banking Act 1979 (c. 37, SIF 10), **s. 43(4)** and repealed by Banking Act 1987 (c. 22, SIF 10), s. 108(2), **Sch. 7 Pt. I**
- F189** Word in s. 7(3) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 25 para. 16(3)** (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C37** S. 7(4): functions transferred (28.2.2003) by The Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/415), art. 2, **Sch.** (with art. 5)

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8 Defamation actions.

- (1) This section applies to any action for libel or slander begun after the commencement of this Act by a [^{F112}rehabilitated][^{F112}protected] person and founded upon the publication of any matter imputing that the plaintiff has committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for an offence which was the subject of a spent conviction.
- (2) Nothing in section 4(1) above shall affect an action to which this section applies where the publication complained of took place before the conviction in question became spent, and the following provisions of this section shall not apply in any such case.
- (3) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) below, nothing in section 4(1) above shall prevent the defendant in an action to which this section applies from relying on any defence [^{F113}of justification or fair comment or][^{F113}under section 2 or 3 of the Defamation Act 2013 which is available to him or any defence] of absolute or qualified privilege which is available to him, or restrict the matters he may establish in support of any such defence.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3) above, where in any such action malice is alleged against a defendant who is relying on a defence of qualified privilege, nothing in section 4(1) above shall restrict the matters he may establish in rebuttal of the allegation.
- (5) A defendant in any such action shall not by virtue of subsection (3) above be entitled to rely upon [^{F114}the defence of justification][^{F114}a defence under section 2 of the Defamation Act 2013] if the publication is proved to have been made with malice.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7) below a defendant in any such action shall not, by virtue of subsection (3) above, be entitled to rely on any matter or adduce or require any evidence for the purpose of establishing (whether under [^{F115}section 14 of the Defamation Act 1996] or otherwise) the defence that the matter published constituted a fair and accurate report of judicial proceedings if it is proved that the publication contained a reference to evidence which was ruled to be inadmissible in the proceedings by virtue of section 4(1) above.
- (7) Subsection (3) above shall apply without the qualifications imposed by subsection (6) above in relation to—
 - (a) any report of judicial proceedings contained in any bona fide series of law reports which does not form part of any other publication and consists solely of reports of proceedings in courts of law, and
 - (b) any report or account of judicial proceedings published for bona fide educational, scientific or professional purposes, or given in the course of any lecture, class or discussion given or held for any of those purposes.
- [^{F116}(8) In the application of this section to Scotland—
 - (a) for the reference in subsection (1) to libel and slander there shall be substituted a reference to defamation;
 - (b) for references to the plaintiff and the defendant there shall be substituted respectively references to the pursuer and the defender; and
 - (c) for references to the defence of justification there shall be substituted references to the defence of veritas.]

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Textual Amendments

- F112** Word in s. 8(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(14\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F113** Words in s. 8(3) substituted (E.W.) (1.1.2014) by [Defamation Act 2013 \(c. 26\)](#), [ss. 16\(2\)](#), 17(4); S.I. 2013/3027, art. 2
- F114** Words in s. 8(5) substituted (E.W.) (1.1.2014) by [Defamation Act 2013 \(c. 26\)](#), [ss. 16\(3\)](#), 17(4); S.I. 2013/3027, art. 2
- F115** Words in s. 8(6) substituted (1.4.1999) by [1996 c. 31](#), [ss. 14\(4\)](#), 19(3) (with s. 20(2)); S.I. 1999/817, [art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F116** S. 8(8) omitted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 7](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

[^{F117}8A Protection afforded to spent cautions

- (1) Schedule 2 to this Act (protection for spent cautions) shall have effect.
- (2) In this Act “caution” means—
- (a) a conditional caution, that is to say, a caution given under section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) (conditional cautions for adults) or under section 66A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37) (conditional cautions for children and young persons);
 - (b) any other caution given to a person in England and Wales in respect of an offence which, at the time the caution is given, that person has admitted;
 - ^{F118}(c)
 - (d) anything corresponding to a caution ^{F119}... falling within [^{F120} paragraph (a) or (b)] (however described) which is given to a person in respect of an offence under the law of a country outside England and Wales [^{F121} and which is not an alternative to prosecution (within the meaning of section 8AA)].]

Textual Amendments

- F117** S. 8A inserted (E.W.) (19.12.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 49, 153(7), [Sch. 10 para. 3](#) (with [Sch. 27 para. 19](#)); S.I. 2008/3260, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#)
- F118** S. 8A(2)(c) omitted (8.4.2013) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 24 para. 2\(a\)](#) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(f)
- F119** Words in s. 8A(2)(d) omitted (8.4.2013) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 24 para. 2\(b\)\(i\)](#) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(f)
- F120** Words in s. 8A(2)(d) substituted (8.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 24 para. 2\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(f)
- F121** Words in s. 8A(2)(d) inserted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 8](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

[^{F122}8AA Protection afforded to spent alternatives to prosecution

- (1) The following provisions of this Act apply, with the modifications specified in subsection (3), to a spent alternative to prosecution as they apply to a spent caution—
- (a) section 9A (unauthorised disclosure of spent cautions), and

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- (b) paragraphs 2 to 6 of Schedule 2 (protection relating to spent cautions and ancillary circumstances).
- (2) An alternative to prosecution becomes spent for the purposes of this Act when it becomes spent under the law of Scotland.
- (3) The modifications mentioned in subsection (1) are—
 - (a) references to cautions are to be read as references to alternatives to prosecution (and references to cautioned are to be read accordingly),
 - (b) references to the offence which was the subject of the caution are to be read as references to the offence in respect of which the alternative to prosecution was given,
 - (c) paragraphs (e) and (f) of paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 2 are to be read as if they were—
 - “(e) anything done or undergone in pursuance of the terms of the alternative to prosecution,”
 - (d) references to cautions for an offence are to be read as references to alternatives to prosecution in respect of an offence, and
 - (e) the reference in paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 to the rehabilitation period applicable to the caution is to be read as a reference to the time at which the alternative to prosecution becomes spent.
- (4) In this section “alternative to prosecution” has the same meaning as in section 8B as that section has effect in the law of Scotland but disregarding subsection (1)(f) of that section.]

Textual Amendments

F122 S. 8AA inserted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), **ss. 139(6), 151(1)** (with [s. 141\(1\)-\(6\)](#)); [S.I. 2014/423](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

[^{F123}8B Protection afforded to spent alternatives to prosecution: Scotland

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, a person has been given an alternative to prosecution in respect of an offence if the person (whether before or after the commencement of this section)—
 - (a) has been given a warning in respect of the offence by—
 - (i) a constable in Scotland, or
 - (ii) a procurator fiscal,
 - (b) has accepted, or is deemed to have accepted—
 - (i) a conditional offer issued in respect of the offence under section 302 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c.46), or
 - (ii) a compensation offer issued in respect of the offence under section 302A of that Act,
 - (c) has had a work order made against the person in respect of the offence under section 303ZA of that Act,
- [^{F124}(ca) has, under subsection (5) of section 20A of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), given notice of intention to comply with a restoration notice given under subsection (4) of that section,]

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- (d) has been given a fixed penalty notice in respect of the offence under section 129 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 8),
 - (e) has accepted an offer made by a procurator fiscal in respect of the offence to undertake an activity or treatment or to receive services or do any other thing as an alternative to prosecution, or
 - (f) in respect of an offence under the law of a country or territory outside Scotland, has been given, or has accepted or is deemed to have accepted, anything corresponding to a warning, offer, order or notice falling within paragraphs (a) to (e) under the law of that country or territory.
- (2) In this Act, references to an “alternative to prosecution” are to be read in accordance with subsection (1).
- [This section does not apply where the acts or omissions constituting the offence
F125(2A) mentioned in subsection (1) occurred when the person was under 12 years of age.]
- (3) Schedule 3 to this Act (protection for spent alternatives to prosecution: Scotland) has effect.]

Textual Amendments

- F123** S. 8B inserted (S.) (1.11.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), **ss. 109(2), 206(1)**; [S.S.I. 2011/354](#), **art. 2(1)**, Sch.
- F124** S. 8B(1)(ca) inserted (29.6.2011) by [Wildlife and Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2011 \(asp 6\)](#), **ss. 40(2), 43(1)** (with [s. 41\(1\)](#)); [S.S.I. 2011/279](#), **art. 2(1)(q)**
- F125** S. 8B(2A) inserted (30.11.2020) by [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 7\)](#), **ss. 4(4), 84(2)**; [S.S.I. 2020/369](#), reg. 2, sch.

[^{F126}8C Modification of section 8B and schedule 3: Scotland

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify the list of circumstances in section 8B(1) in which a person is given an alternative to prosecution by—
- (a) amending an entry,
 - (b) removing an entry,
 - (c) adding an entry.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify paragraph 1 of schedule 3 by—
- (a) amending provision specifying when an alternative to prosecution becomes spent,
 - (b) removing provision specifying when an alternative to prosecution becomes spent,
 - (c) adding provision specifying when an alternative to prosecution becomes spent.
- (3) Regulations under this section—
- (a) may make different provision for different purposes,
 - (b) are subject to the affirmative procedure.]

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(1) In this section—

“official record” means a record kept for the purposes of its functions by any court, police force, Government department, local or other public authority in Great Britain, or a record kept, in Great Britain or elsewhere, for the purposes of any of Her Majesty’s forces, being in either case a record containing information about persons convicted of offences; and

“specified information” means information imputing that a named or otherwise identifiable [^{F127}rehabilitated living person][^{F127}living protected person] has committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for any offence which is the subject of a spent conviction.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any order made under subsection (5) below, any person who, in the course of his official duties, has or at any time has had custody of or access to any official record or the information contained therein, shall be guilty of an offence if, knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that any specified information he has obtained in the course of those duties is specified information, he discloses it, otherwise than in the course of those duties, to another person.

(3) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2) above it shall be a defence for the [^{F128}defendant ^{F129}...][^{F128}accused person] to show that the disclosure was made—

(a) to the [^{F130}rehabilitated][^{F130}protected] person or to another person at the express request of the [^{F130}rehabilitated][^{F130}protected] person; or

(b) to a person whom he reasonably believed to be the [^{F131}rehabilitated][^{F131}protected] person or to another person at the express request of a person whom he reasonably believed to be the [^{F131}rehabilitated][^{F131}protected] person.

(4) Any person who obtains any specified information from any official record by means of any fraud, dishonesty or bribe shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) The Secretary of State may by order make such provision as appears to him to be appropriate for excepting the disclosure of specified information derived from an official record from the provisions of subsection (2) above in such cases or classes of case as may be specified in the order.

(6) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) above shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F132}level 4 on the standard scale].

(7) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) above shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F133}level 5 on the standard scale] or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

[^{F134}(8) Proceedings for an offence under subsection (2) above shall not [^{F135}, in England and Wales,] be instituted except by or on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions.]

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Textual Amendments

- F127** Words in s. 9(1) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(15\)\(a\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F128** Words in s. 9(3) substituted (S.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 17\(2\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F129** Words in s. 9(3) omitted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 9\(2\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F130** Word in s. 9(3)(a) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(15\)\(b\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F131** Word in s. 9(3)(b) substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (asp 14), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(15\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)
- F132** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982](#) (c. 48, SIF 39:1), [ss. 38](#), 46 and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975](#) (c. 21, SIF 39:1), [ss. 289F](#), 289G
- F133** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982](#) (c. 48, SIF 39:1), [ss. 38](#), 46 and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975](#) (c. 21, SIF 39:1), [ss. 289F](#), 289G
- F134** S. 9(8) omitted (S.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 17\(3\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F135** Words in s. 9(8) omitted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#) (c. 10), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 9\(3\)](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C28** S. 9(8) explained by [Criminal Jurisdiction Act 1975](#) (c. 59), [s. 12](#)

[^{F136}9A Unauthorised disclosure of spent cautions

- (1) In this section—
- (a) “official record” means a record which—
 - (i) contains information about persons given a caution for any offence or offences; and
 - (ii) is kept for the purposes of its functions by any court, police force, Government department or other public authority in England and Wales;
 - (b) “caution information” means information imputing that a named or otherwise identifiable living person (“the named person”) has committed, been charged with or prosecuted or cautioned for any offence which is the subject of a spent caution; and
 - (c) “relevant person” means any person who, in the course of his official duties (anywhere in the United Kingdom), has or at any time has had custody of or access to any official record or the information contained in it.
- (2) Subject to the terms of any order made under subsection (5), a relevant person shall be guilty of an offence if, knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that any caution information he has obtained in the course of his official duties is caution information, he discloses it, otherwise than in the course of those duties, to another person.
- (3) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2) it shall be a defence for the defendant to show that the disclosure was made—

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- (a) to the named person or to another person at the express request of the named person;
 - (b) to a person whom he reasonably believed to be the named person or to another person at the express request of a person whom he reasonably believed to be the named person.
- (4) Any person who obtains any caution information from any official record by means of any fraud, dishonesty or bribe shall be guilty of an offence.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by order make such provision as appears to him to be appropriate for excepting the disclosure of caution information derived from an official record from the provisions of subsection (2) in such cases or classes of case as may be specified in the order.
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (7) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or to both.
- (8) Proceedings for an offence under subsection (2) shall not be instituted except by or on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions.]

Textual Amendments

F136 S. 9A inserted (E.W.) (19.12.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 49, 153(7), [Sch. 10 para. 4](#) (with [Sch. 27 para. 19](#)); S.I. 2008/3260, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#)

[^{F137}9B Unauthorised disclosure of spent alternatives to prosecution: Scotland

- (1) In this section—
- (a) “official record” means a record that—
 - (i) contains information about persons given an alternative to prosecution in respect of an offence, and
 - (ii) is kept for the purposes of its functions by a court, [^{F138}the Police Service of Scotland or another] police force, Government department, part of the Scottish Administration or other local or public authority in Scotland,
 - (b) “relevant information” means information imputing that a named or otherwise identifiable living person has committed, been charged with, prosecuted for or given an alternative to prosecution in respect of an offence which is the subject of an alternative to prosecution which has become spent,
 - (c) “subject of the information”, in relation to relevant information, means the named or otherwise identifiable living person to whom the information relates.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies to a person who, in the course of the person's official duties (anywhere in the United Kingdom), has or has had custody of or access to an official record or the information contained in an official record.
- (3) The person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) obtains relevant information in the course of the person's official duties,

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- (b) knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the information is relevant information, and
 - (c) discloses the information to another person otherwise than in the course of the person's official duties.
- (4) Subsection (3) is subject to the terms of an order under subsection (6).
- (5) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (3), it is a defence for the accused to show that the disclosure was made—
- (a) to the subject of the information or to a person whom the accused reasonably believed to be the subject of the information, or
 - (b) to another person at the express request of the subject of the information or of a person whom the accused reasonably believed to be the subject of the information.
- (6) The Scottish Ministers may by order provide for the disclosure of relevant information derived from an official record to be excepted from the provisions of subsection (3) in cases or classes of cases specified in the order.
- (7) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (8) A person commits an offence if the person obtains relevant information from an official record by means of fraud, dishonesty or bribery.
- (9) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (8) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both.]
- [^{F139}(10) This section does not apply where the acts or omissions constituting the offence mentioned in subsection (1)(b) occurred when the person was under 12 years of age.]

Textual Amendments

- F137** S. 9B inserted (S.) (1.11.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), ss. [109\(3\)](#), [206\(1\)](#); S.S.I. 2011/354, [art. 2\(1\)](#), Sch.
- F138** Words in s. 9B(1)(a)(ii) inserted (1.4.2013) by [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012 \(asp 8\)](#), s. [129\(2\)](#), [sch. 7 para. 3](#); S.S.I. 2013/51, art. 2 (with transitional provisions and savings in S.S.I. 2013/121)
- F139** S. 9B(10) inserted (30.11.2020) by [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 7\)](#), ss. [4\(5\)](#), [84\(2\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/369, reg. 2, sch.

10 Orders.

- (1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order under any provision of this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, and an order made under any provision of this Act except section 11 below may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order made under that provision.
- [^{F140}(1A) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order under any provision of this Act includes power—
- (a) to make different provision for different purposes, and

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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- (b) to make incidental, consequential, supplementary, transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (1B) The power of the Secretary of State to make an order under section 5(6) includes power to make consequential provision which amends or repeals any provision of this Act or any other enactment.]
- (2) No order shall be made by the Secretary of State under any provision of this Act other than section 11 below unless a draft of it has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F140 S. 10(1A)(1B) inserted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 25 para. 10](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)

[^{F141}10A Order-making powers: Scottish Ministers

- (1) Any power exercisable by the Scottish Ministers to make an order under this Act includes power—
 - (a) to make different provision for different purposes,
 - (b) to make incidental, supplementary, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (2) To the extent that the power to make an order under section 5(11) is exercisable by the Scottish Ministers, that power includes power exercisable by the Scottish Ministers to make consequential provision modifying any enactment (including this Act).]

Textual Amendments

F141 S. 10A inserted (S.) (21.12.2019) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), [ss. 32\(2\)](#), [63\(2\)](#) (with s. 37); S.S.I. 2019/413, reg. 2(a)

11 Citation, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on 1st July 1975 or such earlier day as the Secretary of State may by order appoint.
- (3) This Act shall not apply to Northern Ireland.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C29 Power conferred by s. 11(2) to bring Act into operation before 1.7.1975 was not exercised

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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[^{F142}][^{F143}][^{F144}SCHEDULE 1]

SECTION 6(4): SERVICE DISCIPLINARY CONVICTIONS

Textual Amendments

- F142** Sch. 1 omitted (E.W.) (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\), s. 151\(1\), Sch. 25 para. 11](#) (with s. 141(1)-(6)); S.I. 2014/423, art. 2(c) (with art. 3)
- F143** Sch. inserted (1.10.1996) by [1996 c. 46, s. 13\(4\)\(5\)\(6\), Sch. 4](#); S.I. 1996/2474, art. 2
- F144** Sch. renumbered as Sch. 1 (E.W.) (19.12.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\), ss. 49, 153\(7\), Sch. 10 para. 5](#) (with Sch. 27 para. 19); S.I. 2008/3260, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#); and Sch. so renumbered (S.) (1.11.20011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\), ss. 203, 206\(1\), Sch. 7 para. 10; S.S.I. 2011/354, art. 2, Sch.](#)

- 1 Any conviction for an offence mentioned in this Schedule is a conviction referred to in section 6(6)(bb) of this Act (convictions to be disregarded for the purposes of extending a [^{F145}disclosure period] following subsequent conviction).

Textual Amendments

- F145** Words in Sch. 1 para. 1 substituted (S.) (30.11.2020) by [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\), s. 63\(2\), sch. 2 para. 1\(16\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2, sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

Provisions of the Army Act 1955 and the Air Force Act 1955

- 2 Any offence under any of the provisions of the ^{M11} Army Act 1955 or the ^{M12} Air Force Act 1955 listed in the first column of the following table:—

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Subject-matter</i>
Section 29	Offences by or in relation to sentries, persons on watch etc.
Section 29A	Failure to attend for duty, neglect of duty etc.
Section 33	Insubordinate behaviour.
Section 34	Disobedience to lawful commands.
Section 34A	Failure to provide a sample for drug testing.
Section 35	Obstruction of provost officers.
Section 36	Disobedience to standing orders.
Section 38	Absence without leave.
Section 39	Failure to report or apprehend deserters or absentees.
Section 42	Malingering.
Section 43	Drunkenness.
Section 43A	Fighting, threatening words etc.

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Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)

Section 44	Damage to, and loss of, public or service property etc.
Section 44A	Damage to, and loss of, Her Majesty’s aircraft or aircraft material.
Section 44B	Interference etc. with equipment, messages or signals.
Section 45	Misapplication and waste of public or service property.
Section 46	Offences relating to issues and decorations.
Section 47	Billeting offences.
Section 48	Offences in relation to requisitioning of vehicles.
Section 50	Inaccurate certification.
Section 51	Low flying.
Section 52	Annoyance by flying.
Section 54	Permitting escape, and unlawful release of prisoners.
Section 55	Resistance to arrest.
Section 56	Escape from confinement.
Section 57	Offences in relation to courts-martial.
Section 61	Making of false statements on enlistment.
Section 62	Making of false documents.
Section 63	Offences against civilian population.
Section 69	Conduct to prejudice of military discipline or air-force discipline.

Marginal Citations

M11 1955 c. 18.

M12 1955 c. 19.

3 Any offence under section 68 (attempt to commit military offence) or 68A (aiding and abetting etc. , and inciting, military offence) of the ^{M13} Army Act 1955 in relation to an offence under any of the provisions of that Act listed in paragraph 2.

Marginal Citations

M13 1955 c. 18.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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- 4 Any offence under section 68 (attempt to commit air-force offence) or 68A (aiding and abetting etc. , and inciting, air-force offence) of the ^{M14} Air Force Act 1955 in relation to an offence under any of the provisions of that Act listed in paragraph 2.

Marginal Citations

M14 1955 c. 19.

Provisions of the Naval Discipline Act 1957

- 5 Any offence under any of the provisions of the ^{M15} Naval Discipline Act 1957 listed in the first column of the following table:—

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Subject-matter</i>
Section 6	Offences by or in relation to sentries, persons on watch etc.
Section 7	Failure to attend for duty, neglect of duty etc.
Section 11	Insubordinate behaviour.
Section 12	Disobedience to lawful commands.
Section 12A	Failure to provide a sample for drug testing.
Section 13	Fighting, threatening words etc.
Section 14	Obstruction of provost officers.
Section 14A	Disobedience to standing orders.
Section 17	Absence without leave etc.
Section 18	Failure to report deserters and absentees.
Section 21	Low flying.
Section 22	Annoyance by flying.
Section 25	Inaccurate certification.
Section 27	Malingering.
Section 28	Drunkenness.
Section 29	Damage to, and loss of, public or service property etc.
Section 29A	Damage to, and loss of, Her Majesty's aircraft or aircraft material.
Section 29B	Interference etc. with equipment, messages or signals.
Section 30	Misapplication and waste of public or service property.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.
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Section 31	Offences relating to issues and decorations.
Section 32	Billeting offences.
Section 33	Offences in relation to the requisitioning of vehicles etc.
Section 33A	Permitting escape, and unlawful release of prisoners.
Section 33B	Resistance to arrest.
Section 33C	Escape from confinement.
Section 34A	False statements on entry.
Section 35	Falsification of documents.
Section 35A	Offences against civilian population.
Section 38	Offences in relation to courts-martial.
Section 39	Conduct to the prejudice of naval discipline.

Marginal Citations
M15 1957 c. 53.

6 Any offence under section 40 (attempt to commit naval offence) or 41 (aiding and abetting etc. , and inciting, naval offence) of the ^{M16} Naval Discipline Act 1957 in relation to an offence under any of the provisions of that Act listed in paragraph 5.

Marginal Citations
M16 1957 c. 53.

[^{F146}Provisions of the Armed Forces Act 2006

Textual Amendments
F146 Sch. 1 para. 7 and cross-heading inserted (28.3.2009 for certain purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) by virtue of [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 16 para. 66](#); [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3](#); [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#) (and see savings (having effect from 24.4.2009 for specified purposes and 31.10.2009 otherwise) in [S.I. 2009/1059](#), [arts 1\(2\)\(3\)](#), 205, [Sch. 1 para. 14](#))

7 Any service offence within the meaning of the Armed Forces Act 2006 except one punishable in the case of an offender aged 18 or over with imprisonment for more than two years.]]]

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)

[^{F147}SCHEDULE 2

PROTECTION FOR SPENT CAUTIONS

Textual Amendments

F147 Sch. 2 inserted (E.W.) (19.12.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 49, 153(7), [Sch. 10 para. 6](#) (with [Sch. 27 para. 19](#)); S.I. 2008/3260, [art. 2\(1\)\(d\)](#)

Preliminary

- 1 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule a caution shall be regarded as a spent caution—
- (a) in the case of a conditional caution (as defined in section 8A(2)(a)) [^{F148}—
 - (i) at the end of the period of three months from the date on which the caution is given, or
 - (ii) if earlier, when the caution ceases to have effect; and]
 - (b) in any other case, at the time the caution is given.

^{F149}(2)

^{F150F149}(3)

Textual Amendments

F148 Sch. 2 para. 1(1)(a)(i)(ii) substituted for words (10.3.2014) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), [ss. 139\(7\)\(a\)](#), 151(1) (with s. 141(1)–(6)); S.I. 2014/423, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

F149 Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(3) omitted (10.3.2014) by virtue of [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), [ss. 139\(7\)\(b\)](#), 151(1) (with s. 141(1)–(6)); S.I. 2014/423, [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

F150 By [Management of Offenders \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 14\)](#), s. 63(2), [sch. 2 para. 1\(17\)\(a\)](#); S.S.I. 2020/245, [reg. 2](#), [sch.](#) (with [reg. 3](#)) it is provided that (S.) (30.11.2020) in Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(a)(b) the word “disclosure” is substituted for “rehabilitation” in each place where it occurs [Editorial note: The purported substitution cannot be applied because the affected provision does not extend to Scotland.]

- 2 (1) In this Schedule “ancillary circumstances”, in relation to a caution, means any circumstances of the following—
- (a) the offence which was the subject of the caution or the conduct constituting that offence;
 - (b) any process preliminary to the caution (including consideration by any person of how to deal with that offence and the procedure for giving the caution);
 - (c) any proceedings for that offence which take place before the caution is given (including anything which happens after that time for the purpose of bringing the proceedings to an end);
 - (d) any judicial review proceedings relating to the caution;
 - (e) in the case of a [^{F151}youth caution given under section 66ZA] of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37), anything done in pursuance of or undergone in compliance with a requirement to participate in a rehabilitation programme under section [^{F152}66ZB(2) or (3)] of that Act;

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- (f) in the case of a conditional caution, any conditions attached to the caution or anything done in pursuance of or undergone in compliance with those conditions.
- (2) Where the caution relates to two or more offences, references in sub-paragraph (1) to the offence which was the subject of the caution include a reference to each of the offences concerned.
- (3) In this Schedule “proceedings before a judicial authority” has the same meaning as in section 4.

Textual Amendments

- F151** Words in Sch. 2 para. 2(1)(e) substituted (8.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 24 para. 3\(a\)](#) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(f)
- F152** Words in Sch. 2 para. 2(1)(e) substituted (8.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 24 para. 3\(b\)](#) (with s. 135(4)); S.I. 2013/453, art. 4(f)

Protection relating to spent cautions and ancillary circumstances

- 3 (1) A person who is given a caution for an offence shall, from the time the caution is spent, be treated for all purposes in law as a person who has not committed, been charged with or prosecuted for, or been given a caution for the offence; and notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment or rule of law to the contrary—
 - (a) no evidence shall be admissible in any proceedings before a judicial authority exercising its jurisdiction or functions in England and Wales to prove that any such person has committed, been charged with or prosecuted for, or been given a caution for the offence; and
 - (b) a person shall not, in any such proceedings, be asked and, if asked, shall not be required to answer, any question relating to his past which cannot be answered without acknowledging or referring to a spent caution or any ancillary circumstances.
- (2) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) applies in relation to any proceedings for the offence which are not part of the ancillary circumstances relating to the caution.
- (3) Where a question seeking information with respect to a person's previous cautions, offences, conduct or circumstances is put to him or to any other person otherwise than in proceedings before a judicial authority—
 - (a) the question shall be treated as not relating to spent cautions or to any ancillary circumstances, and the answer may be framed accordingly; and
 - (b) the person questioned shall not be subjected to any liability or otherwise prejudiced in law by reason of any failure to acknowledge or disclose a spent caution or any ancillary circumstances in his answer to the question.
- (4) Any obligation imposed on any person by any rule of law or by the provisions of any agreement or arrangement to disclose any matters to any other person shall not extend to requiring him to disclose a spent caution or any ancillary circumstances (whether the caution is his own or another's).
- (5) A caution which has become spent or any ancillary circumstances, or any failure to disclose such a caution or any such circumstances, shall not be a proper ground

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for dismissing or excluding a person from any office, profession, occupation or employment, or for prejudicing him in any way in any occupation or employment.

(6) This paragraph has effect subject to paragraphs 4 to 6.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C30** Sch. 2 para. 3(1) excluded (18.12.2008) by S.I. 1975/1023, art. 5, **Sch. 3** (as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/3259), **art. 6**)
- C31** Sch. 2 para. 3(1)(5) excluded (7.7.2009) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 6(3)** (as inserted by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1818), **art. 6**)
- C32** Sch. 2 para. 3(3) excluded (18.12.2008) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 3** (as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/3259), **art. 4**)
- C33** Sch. 2 para. 3(3) excluded (7.7.2009) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 6(1)** (as inserted by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1818), **art. 6**)
- C34** Sch. 2 para. 3(3) excluded (31.3.2010) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 3A** (as inserted by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1153), **art. 3**)
Sch. 2 para. 3(3) excluded (31.3.2010) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 6** (as substituted by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1153), **art. 4**)
- C35** Sch. 2 para. 3(5) excluded (18.12.2008) by S.I. 1975/1023, **art. 4** (as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/3259), **art. 5**)

- 4 The Secretary of State may by order—
- (a) make provision for excluding or modifying the application of either or both of paragraphs (a) or (b) of paragraph 3(3) in relation to questions put in such circumstances as may be specified in the order;
 - (b) provide for exceptions from the provisions of sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) of paragraph 3, in such cases or classes of case, and in relation to cautions of such a description, as may be specified in the order.
- 5 Nothing in paragraph 3 affects—
- (a) the operation of the caution in question; or
 - ^{F153}(b) the operation of any enactment by virtue of which, in consequence of any caution, a person is subject to any disqualification, disability, prohibition or other restriction or effect, the period of which extends beyond the rehabilitation period applicable to the caution.

Textual Amendments

- F153** By Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(17)(b)**; S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, **sch.** (with reg. 3) it is provided that (S.) (30.11.2020) in Sch. 2 para. 5(b) the word “disclosure” is substituted for “rehabilitation” [Editorial note: The purported substitution cannot be applied because the affected provision does not extend to Scotland.]

- 6 (1) Section 7(2), (3) and (4) apply for the purposes of this Schedule as follows.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

Changes to legislation: *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)*

- (2) Subsection (2) (apart from paragraphs (b) and (d)) applies to the determination of any issue, and the admission or requirement of any evidence, relating to a person's previous cautions or to ancillary circumstances as it applies to matters relating to a person's previous convictions and circumstances ancillary thereto.
- (3) Subsection (3) applies to evidence of a person's previous cautions and ancillary circumstances as it applies to evidence of a person's convictions and the circumstances ancillary thereto; and for this purpose subsection (3) shall have effect as if—
 - (a) any reference to subsection (2) or (4) of section 7 were a reference to that subsection as applied by this paragraph; and
 - (b) the words “or proceedings to which section 8 below applies” were omitted.
- (4) Subsection (4) applies for the purpose of excluding the application of paragraph 3(1); and for that purpose subsection (4) shall have effect as if the words “(other than proceedings to which section 8 below applies)” were omitted.
- (5) References in the provisions applied by this paragraph to section 4(1) are to be read as references to paragraph 3(1).]

[^{F154}SCHEDULE 3

(introduced by section 8B(3))

PROTECTION FOR SPENT ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION: SCOTLAND

Textual Amendments

F154 Sch. 3 inserted (S.) (1.11.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), **ss. 109(4)**, 206(1); [S.S.I. 2011/354](#), **art. 2(1)**, Sch.

Preliminary

- 1 (1) For the purposes of this Act, an alternative to prosecution given to any person (whether before or after the commencement of this Schedule) becomes spent—
 - (a) in the case of—
 - (i) a warning referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 8B, or
 - (ii) a fixed penalty notice referred to in paragraph (d) of that subsection,
 at the time the warning or notice is given,
 - (b) in any other case, at the end of the relevant period.
- (2) The relevant period in relation to an alternative to prosecution is the period of 3 months beginning on the day on which the alternative to prosecution is given.
- (3) Sub-paragraph (1)(a) is subject to sub-paragraph (5).
- (4) Sub-paragraph (2) is subject to sub-paragraph (6).
- (5) If a person who is given a fixed penalty notice referred to in section 8B(1)(d) in respect of an offence is subsequently prosecuted and convicted of the offence, the notice—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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- (a) becomes spent at the end of the [F155 disclosure] period for the offence, and
 - (b) is to be treated as not having become spent in relation to any period before the end of that [F155 disclosure] period.
- (6) If a person who is given an alternative to prosecution (other than one to which sub-paragraph (1)(a) applies) in respect of an offence is subsequently prosecuted and convicted of the offence—
- (a) the relevant period in relation to the alternative to prosecution ends at the same time as the [F156 disclosure] period for the offence ends, and
 - (b) if the conviction occurs after the end of the period referred to in sub-paragraph (2), the alternative to prosecution is to be treated as not having become spent in relation to any period before the end of the [F156 disclosure] period for the offence.

Textual Amendments

F155 Word in Sch. 3 para. 1(5) substituted (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), sch. 2 para. 1(18)(a); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

F156 Word in Sch. 3 para. 1(6) substituted (30.11.2020) by Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 (asp 14), s. 63(2), sch. 2 para. 1(18)(b); S.S.I. 2020/245, reg. 2, sch. (with reg. 3)

- 2 (1) In this Schedule, “ ancillary circumstances ”, in relation to an alternative to prosecution, means any circumstances of the following—
- (a) the offence in respect of which the alternative to prosecution is given or the conduct constituting the offence,
 - (b) any process preliminary to the alternative to prosecution being given (including consideration by any person of how to deal with the offence and the procedure for giving the alternative to prosecution),
 - (c) any proceedings for the offence which took place before the alternative to prosecution was given (including anything that happens after that time for the purpose of bringing the proceedings to an end),
 - (d) any judicial review proceedings relating to the alternative to prosecution,
 - (e) anything done or undergone in pursuance of the terms of the alternative to prosecution.
- (2) Where an alternative to prosecution is given in respect of two or more offences, references in sub-paragraph (1) to the offence in respect of which the alternative to prosecution is given includes a reference to each of the offences.
- (3) In this Schedule, “ proceedings before a judicial authority ” has the same meaning as in section 4.

Protection for spent alternatives to prosecution and ancillary circumstances

- 3 (1) A person who is given an alternative to prosecution in respect of an offence is, from the time the alternative to prosecution becomes spent, to be treated for all purposes in law as a person who has not committed, been charged with or prosecuted for, or been given an alternative to prosecution in respect of, the offence.
- (2) Despite any enactment or rule of law to the contrary—
- (a) where an alternative to prosecution given to a person in respect of an offence has become spent, evidence is not admissible in any proceedings before a

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- judicial authority exercising its jurisdiction or functions in Scotland to prove that the person has committed, been charged with or prosecuted for, or been given an alternative to prosecution in respect of, the offence,
- (b) a person must not, in any such proceedings, be asked any question relating to the person's past which cannot be answered without acknowledging or referring to an alternative to prosecution that has become spent or any ancillary circumstances, and
 - (c) if a person is asked such a question in any such proceedings, the person is not required to answer it.
- (3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply in relation to any proceedings—
- (a) for the offence in respect of which the alternative to prosecution was given, and
 - (b) which are not part of the ancillary circumstances.
- 4 (1) This paragraph applies where a person (“A”) is asked a question, otherwise than in proceedings before a judicial authority, seeking information about—
- (a) A's or another person's previous conduct or circumstances,
 - (b) offences previously committed by A or the other person, or
 - (c) alternatives to prosecution previously given to A or the other person.
- (2) The question is to be treated as not relating to alternatives to prosecution that have become spent or to any ancillary circumstances and may be answered accordingly.
- (3) A is not to be subjected to any liability or otherwise prejudiced in law because of a failure to acknowledge or disclose an alternative to prosecution that has become spent or any ancillary circumstances in answering the question.
- 5 (1) An obligation imposed on a person (“A”) by a rule of law or by the provisions of an agreement or arrangement to disclose any matter to another person does not extend to requiring A to disclose an alternative to prosecution (whether one given to A or another person) that has become spent or any ancillary circumstances.
- (2) An alternative to prosecution that has become spent or any ancillary circumstances, or any failure to disclose an alternative to prosecution that has become spent or any ancillary circumstances, is not a ground for dismissing or excluding a person from any office, profession, occupation or employment, or for prejudicing the person in any way in any occupation or employment.
- 6 The Scottish Ministers may by order—
- (a) exclude or modify the application of either or both of sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 4 in relation to questions put in such circumstances as may be specified in the order,
 - (b) provide for exceptions from any of the provisions of paragraph 5 in such cases or classes of case, or in relation to alternatives to prosecution of such descriptions, as may be specified in the order
- 7 Paragraphs 3 to 5 do not affect—
- (a) the operation of an alternative to prosecution, or
 - (b) the operation of an enactment by virtue of which, because of an alternative to prosecution, a person is subject to a disqualification, disability, prohibition or other restriction or effect for a period extending beyond the time at which the alternative to prosecution becomes spent
- 8 (1) Section 7(2), (3) and (4) apply for the purpose of this Schedule as follows.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

Changes to legislation: *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 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)*

- (2) Subsection (2), apart from paragraphs (b) and (d), applies to the determination of any issue, and the admission or requirement of evidence, relating to alternatives to prosecution previously given to a person and to ancillary circumstances as it applies to matters relating to a person's previous convictions and circumstances ancillary thereto.
 - (3) Subsection (3) applies to evidence of alternatives to prosecution previously given to a person and ancillary circumstances as it applies to evidence of a person's previous convictions and the circumstances ancillary thereto.
 - (4) For that purpose, subsection (3) has effect as if—
 - (a) a reference to subsection (2) or (4) of section 7 were a reference to that subsection as applied by this paragraph, and
 - (b) the words “or proceedings to which section 8 below applies” were omitted.
 - (5) Subsection (4) applies for the purpose of excluding the application of paragraph 3.
 - (6) For that purpose, subsection (4) has effect as if the words “(other than proceedings to which section 8 below applies)” were omitted.
 - (7) References in the provisions applied by this paragraph to section 4(1) are to be read as references to paragraph 3.]
- [^{F157} (1) The powers conferred on the Scottish Ministers by—
- (a) paragraph 6, and
 - (b) section 7(4), as applied by paragraph 8,
- may be exercised to make provision relating to reserved matters and are not subject to the restrictions imposed by section 29(2)(b) or (c) of, or Schedule 4 to, the Scotland Act 1998.
- (2) In this paragraph, “reserved matters” has the same meaning as in the Scotland Act 1998.]

Textual Amendments

F157 Sch. 3 para. 9 inserted (13.4.2015) by Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), ss. 19, 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 15

Status:

Point in time view as at 30/11/2020.

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