

Changes to legislation: Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, Paragraph 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F1}SCHEDULE 3

PROTECTION FOR SPENT ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION: SCOTLAND

Textual Amendments

- F1** 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.

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 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.]

Changes to legislation:

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, Paragraph 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied by [2017 anaw 2 s. 66\(10\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 5(2AA) inserted by [2020 asp 13 sch. 5 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 5J(1)(ba) inserted by [2020 asp 13 sch. 5 para. 2\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 5J(1A)(1B) inserted by [2020 asp 13 sch. 5 para. 2\(8\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 8A(2)(aa)-(ad) substituted for s. 8A(2)(a) by [2022 c. 32 Sch. 11 para. 2\(a\)](#)
- s. 8B(1A)-(1E) inserted by [2011 asp 1 s. 187\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 1(1)(aa)(ab) inserted by [2011 asp 1 s. 187\(3\)](#)