



Magistrates' Courts Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 43

PART I

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE

Summary trial of information

13 Non-appearance of accused: issue of warrant.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where the court, instead of proceeding in the absence of the accused, adjourns or further adjourns the trial, the court may, ^{F1} . . . , issue a warrant for his arrest.
- (2) Where a summons has been issued, the court shall not issue a warrant under this section [^{F2}unless the condition in subsection (2A) below or that in subsection (2B) below is fulfilled].

^{F3}[(2A) The condition in this subsection is that it is proved to the satisfaction of the court, on oath or in such other manner as may be prescribed, that the summons was served on the accused within what appears to the court to be a reasonable time before the trial or adjourned trial.

(2B) The condition in this subsection is that—

- (a) the adjournment now being made is a second or subsequent adjournment of the trial,
- (b) the accused was present on the last (or only) occasion when the trial was adjourned, and
- (c) on that occasion the court determined the time for the hearing at which the adjournment is now being made.]

^{F4}[(3) A warrant for the arrest of any person who has attained the age of 18 shall not be issued under this section unless—

- (a) ^{F5} . . . the offence to which the warrant relates is punishable with imprisonment, or

Changes to legislation: Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, Section 13 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 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

- (b) the court, having convicted the accused, proposes to impose a disqualification on him.
- (3A) A warrant for the arrest of any person who has not attained the age of 18 shall not be issued under this section unless—
- [^{F6}(a) the offence to which the warrant relates is punishable, in the case of a person who has attained the age of 18, with imprisonment, or]
- (b) the court, having convicted the accused, proposes to impose a disqualification on him.]
- ^{F7}[(4) This section shall not apply to an adjournment on the occasion of the accused's conviction in his absence under subsection (5) of section 12 above or to an adjournment required by subsection (9) of that section.]
- (5) ^{F8}

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 13(1) repealed (1.9.1998 subject as mentioned in S.I. 1998/1837, **art. 4**) by 1998 c. 15, **s. 3(1)**; S.I. 1998/1837, **arts2, 4**
- F2** Words in s. 13(2) substituted (4.7.1996 with application where the court proposes to issue a warrant under s. 13 on or after 1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 25, **s. 48(2)(4)** (with s. 78(1)); S.I. 1996/2343, **art. 2**
- F3** S. 13(2A)(2B) inserted (4.7.1996 with application where the court proposes to issue a warrant under s. 13 on or after 1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 25, **s. 48(3)(4)** (with s. 78(1)); S.I. 1996/2343, **art. 2**
- F4** S. 13(3)(3A) substituted for s. 13(3) (1.9.1998 subject as mentioned in S.I. 1998/1837, **art. 4**) by 1998 c. 15, **s. 3(2)**; S.I. 1998/1837, **arts2, 4**
- F5** Words in s. 13(3)(a) omitted (29.1.2004) and repealed (15.12.2004) by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 31(2), 332, 336, Sch. 37 Pt. 12**; S.I. 2004/81, **art. 4(2)(d)**; S.I. 2004/3033, **art. 3(2)(e)(ii)**
- F6** S. 13(3A)(a) substituted (29.1.2004) by Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), **ss. 31(3), 336**; S.I. 2004/81, **art. 4(2)(d)**
- F7** S. 13(4) substituted (4.9.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 45, **Sch. 5 para. 3(2)**; S.I. 1995/1957, **art. 4**
- F8** S. 13(5) repealed (14.7.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), **ss. 54(7), 149, 153, Sch. 28 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2008/1586, **art. 2(1)(3)**, Sch. 1 paras. 28, 50(4)(a) (subject to Sch. 2)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 13(1)-(3A)(5) applied (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, **ss. 2(5), 168(1)**
- C2** S. 13(1)-(3A)(5) applied (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), **ss. 6(6), 416(1)** (with **ss. 2, 398(1), 406, Sch. 27**); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2

Changes to legislation:

Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, Section 13 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 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 Sch. 3 para. 18\(5\)](#)

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

- s. 1(6A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- s. 1(6A) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 11 para. 3\(4\)](#) (Effect not applied as (6A) was only inserted prospectively.)
- s. 1(7A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 8\(6\)](#)
- s. 12(2A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 4\(3\)](#)
- s. 12(5A)-(5F) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 4\(6\)](#)
- s. 17A(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 17B(1A)-(1F) substituted for s. 17B(1) by [2022 c. 35 s. 9\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 17B(5) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 9\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 17BA inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 7](#)
- s. 17ZA-17ZC inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 6\(2\)](#)
- s. 18(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 18(1) by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 18(4A)(4B) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 18(6) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(7\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 20(7A)(7B) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(8\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 22(2A)-(2E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(9\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 22A(1A)-(1E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 6\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 23(1A)-(1G) substituted for s. 23(1) by [2022 c. 35 s. 9\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 23(4A)(4B) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 9\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 24A(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 6\(11\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 24BA inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 9\(5\)](#)
- s. 24ZA24ZB inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 8](#)
- s. 75A inserted by [2013 c. 22 s. 26\(1\)](#)
- s. 85(5) inserted by [2013 c. 22 s. 26\(4\)](#)
- s. 139A inserted by [2013 c. 22 s. 26\(6\)](#)
- s. 145(1A) inserted by [2010 c. 26 Sch. 3 para. 8\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 3 Pt. 2 repealed (4.9.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 22, s. 17(4) ; S.I. 2013/2200 art. 2(a))
- s. 145(1A) repealed by [2010 c. 26 Sch. 4 Pt. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 Pt. 2 repealed (4.9.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 22, s. 17(4) ; S.I. 2013/2200 art. 2(a))
- Sch. 6A (entry) by [2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 69](#)