



Senior Courts Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 54

PART III

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

THE CROWN COURT

Distribution of business

77 ^{F1F2}[^{F2}Committal][^{F2}Sending] for trial: date of trial.

^{F3}(1) [^{F4}Criminal Procedure Rules] shall prescribe the minimum and the maximum period which may elapse between a person's [^{F5}being sent for trial] and the beginning of the trial; and such rules may make different provision for different places of trial and for other different circumstances.

^{F6}(2) The trial of a person [^{F7}sent for trial]—

- (a) shall not begin until the prescribed minimum period has expired except with his consent and the consent of the prosecutor; and
- (b) shall not begin later than the expiry of the prescribed maximum period unless a judge of the Crown Court otherwise orders.

^{F8}(3) For the purposes of this section the prescribed minimum and maximum periods shall begin with the date [^{F9}when the defendant is sent for trial] and the trial shall be taken to begin when the defendant is arraigned.

^{F10}(4) [^{F11}In this section “relevant transfer provision” means—

- (a) section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987, or
- (b) section 53 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 76 heading substituted (18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\), s. 336\(3\)\(4\), Sch. 3 para.](#)

Changes to legislation: Senior Courts Act 1981, Section 77 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 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

- 54(2)(d)**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F2** Word in s. 77 heading substituted (18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(e)**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F3** Words in s. 77(1) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(a)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F4** Words in s. 77(1) substituted (1.9.2004) by **The Courts Act 2003 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/2035), art. 3, Sch. para. 13** (with art. 2(2))
- F5** Words in s. 77(1) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(a)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4)
- F6** Words in s. 77(2) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(b)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F7** Words in s. 77(2) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(b)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4)
- F8** Words in s. 77(3) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(c)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F9** Words in s. 77(3) substituted (9.5.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(c)**; S.I. 2005/1267, art. 2(1)(2)(a), **Sch. Pt. 1**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4)
- F10** S. 77(4) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 18(d)** (by words at the end of para. 18 it is provided that amendments made by this paragraph shall cease to have effect on the coming into force of the amendments made by paragraph 52 of Schedule 4 to this Act); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1, Appendix A**
- F11** S. 77(4) repealed (18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by **Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 54(3)(d), Sch. 37 Pt. 4**; S.I. 2012/1320, art. 4(1)(c)(d)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see S.I. 2012/2574, art. 4(2) and S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2012/2574, art. 2(2)(3)(c)(d), **Sch. (with arts. 3, 4)** (as amended (4.11.2012) by S.I. 2012/2761, art. 2) (with S.I. 2013/1103, art. 4); S.I. 2013/1103, art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)

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

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

- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)