



Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 25

PART III

PREPARATORY HEARINGS

Preparatory hearings

29 Power to order preparatory hearing

- (1) Where it appears to a judge of the Crown Court that an indictment reveals a case of such complexity, or a case whose trial is likely to be of such length, that substantial benefits are likely to accrue from a hearing—
 - (a) before the jury are sworn, and
 - (b) for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (2),he may order that such a hearing (in this Part referred to as a preparatory hearing) shall be held.
- (2) The purposes are those of—
 - (a) identifying issues which are likely to be material to the verdict of the jury;
 - (b) assisting their comprehension of any such issues;
 - (c) expediting the proceedings before the jury;
 - (d) assisting the judge's management of the trial.
- (3) No order may be made under subsection (1) where it appears to a judge of the Crown Court that the evidence on an indictment reveals a case of fraud of such seriousness or complexity as is mentioned in section 7(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 (preparatory hearings in cases of serious or complex fraud).
- (4) A judge may make an order under subsection (1)—
 - (a) on the application of the prosecutor,

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (b) on the application of the accused or, if there is more than one, any of them, or
- (c) of the judge's own motion.