Asylum and Immigration Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 49

An Act to amend and supplement the Immigration Act 1971 and the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993; to make further provision with respect to persons subject to immigration control and the employment of such persons; and for connected purposes.

[24th July 1996]

Be it enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Act amended (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 65(1); S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4)

C2 Act modified (1.9.2001) by 2001 c. 17, s. 32(7) (with ss. 27(3), 39, 78); S.I. 2001/2161, art. 2

Asylum claims

F1 ...........................................

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 1 repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(3), Sch 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4)
4 Obtaining leave by deception.

In subsection (1) of section 24 of the 1971 Act (illegal entry and similar offences), after paragraph (a) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(aa) if, by means which include deception by him, he obtains or seeks to obtain leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom;”.

5 Assisting asylum claimants, and persons seeking to obtain leave by deception.

(1) In subsection (1) of section 25 of the 1971 Act (assisting illegal entry, and harbouring), for the words from “the entry” to “illegal entrant” there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(a) the entry into the United Kingdom of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an illegal entrant;

(b) the entry into the United Kingdom of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an asylum claimant; or

(c) the obtaining by anyone of leave to remain in the United Kingdom by means which he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to include deception,”.
(2) After that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(1A) Nothing in subsection (1)(b) above shall apply to anything which is done—

(a) by a person otherwise than for gain, or in the course of his employment by a bona fide organisation whose purpose it is to assist refugees; or

(b) in relation to a person who has been detained under paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to this Act, or has been granted temporary admission under paragraph 21 of that Schedule;

and in that provision “asylum claimant” means a person who intends to make a claim for asylum (within the meaning of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993).”

(3) In subsection (5) of that section, for the words “Subsection (1)” there shall be substituted the words “Subsection (1)(a)”.

(4) In subsection (6) of that section, for the words “subsection (1)” there shall be substituted the words “subsection (1)(a) or (b)”.

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)


### Commencement Information

I2 S. 5 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; s. 5 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); s. 5 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art.2, Sch. Pt. III

### Marginal Citations

M1 1993 c.23.

### 6 Increased penalties.

In the following provisions, namely—

(a) subsection (1) of section 24 of the 1971 Act (illegal entry and similar offences);

(b) subsection (1) of section 26 (general offences in connection with administration of Act); and

(c) section 27 (offences by persons connected with ships or aircraft or with ports),

for the words “level 4” there shall be substituted the words “level 5”.

### Commencement Information

I3 S. 6 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; s. 6 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); s. 6 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III
Persons subject to immigration control

**Restrictions on employment.**

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**Code of practice.**

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**Age determination.**

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**Notices and directions.**

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**Medical advice.**

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**Persons to whom written directions apply.**

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**Persons to whom restrictions apply.**

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**Appeals.**

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**Rights of appeal and right of review.**

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**Rights of review.**

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**Conventions on the status of refugees.**

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12 Other amendments and repeals.

(1) Schedule 2 to this Act (which contains amendments of the 1971 Act and a related amendment of the Immigration Act 1988) shall have effect.

(2) Schedule 3 to this Act (which contains amendments of the 1993 Act) shall have effect.

(3) The enactments specified in Schedule 4 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

13 Short title, interpretation, commencement and extent.

(1) This Act may be cited as the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

(2) In this Act—

“the 1971 Act” means the Immigration Act 1971;

“the 1993 Act” means the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993;

“person subject to immigration control” means a person who under the 1971 Act requires leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom (whether or not such leave has been given).

(3) This Act, except section 11 and Schedule 1, shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint, and different days may be appointed for different purposes.

(4) An order under subsection (3) above may make such transitional and supplemental provision as the Secretary of State thinks necessary or expedient.

(5) Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that any of the provisions of this Act shall extend, with such modifications as appear to Her Majesty to be appropriate, to any of the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
(6) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

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**Subordinate Legislation Made**

| P1 | S. 13(3) power partly exercised (25.7.1996): different dates appointed for specified provisions by S.I. 1996/2053 |
|    | S. 13(3) power partly exercised (11.8.1996): different dates appointed for specified provisions by S.I. 1996/2127 |
|    | S. 13(3) power partly exercised (25.11.1996): 27.1.1997 appointed for s. 8 by S.I. 1996/2970 |

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**


| C8 | S. 13(2) extended (Guernsey) (with modifications) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/2164, art. 3, Sch. |
|    | S. 13(2) extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (22.6.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch. |

**Commencement Information**


**Marginal Citations**

| M3 | 1971 c.77. |
| M4 | 1993 c.23. |
SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Textual Amendments

F10 Sch. 1 omitted (3.4.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 113; S.I. 2000/464, art. 2, Sch.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 12(1).


General provisions for regulation and control, &c.

1 (1) In subsection (1) of section 3 of the 1971 Act (general provisions for regulation and control), for paragraph (c) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

"(c) if he is given limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, it may be given subject to all or any of the following conditions, namely—

(i) a condition restricting his employment or occupation in the United Kingdom;

(ii) a condition requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants of his, without recourse to public funds; and

(iii) a condition requiring him to register with the police."

F11 (2) .

F11 (3) .

Textual Amendments

F11 Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(3) repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 114, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4); (which amending provision is extended (with modifications) to Jersey (5.6.2003) by S.I. 2003/1252, art. 2, Sch.)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C9 Sch. 2 para. 1(1)(3) extended (Guernsey) (with modifications) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/2164, art. 3, Sch.

C10 Sch. 2 para. 1(1)(3) extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (22.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch.
Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 (c. 49)
SCHEDULE 2 – Amendments of the 1971 Act and the Immigration Act 1988

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 August 2021. 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

Commencement Information
16 Sch. 2 para. 1 wholly in force at 1.11.1996; Sch. 2 para. 1 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(3) in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III; Sch. 2 para. 1(1) in force at 1.11.1996 by S.I. 1996/2127, art. 2, Sch. Pt. IV

Persons belonging to another’s family
2 In subsection (4) of section 5 of the 1971 Act (persons belonging to another’s family), for paragraph (b) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

“(b) where that other person is a woman, her husband and her or his children under the age of eighteen;”.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C11 Sch. 2 para. 2 extended (Guernsey) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1264, art. 3, Sch. 2 para. 2 extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (22.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch. (as amended (coming into force in accordance with art. 1 of the amending S.I.) by The Immigration and Asylum (Jersey) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2593), art. 3(2))

Commencement Information
17 Sch. 2 para. 2 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 2 para. 2 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 2 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

Appeals against conditions
F123 ..............................................................

Textual Amendments
F12 Sch. 2 para. 3 repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 114, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4); (which amending provision is extended (with modifications) to Jersey (5.6.2003) by S.I. 2003/1252, art. 2, Sch.)

Interpretation
4 (1) In subsection (1) of section 33 of the 1971 Act (interpretation), for the definitions of “entrant” and “illegal entrant” there shall be substituted the following definitions—

“‘entrant’ means a person entering or seeking to enter the United Kingdom and “illegal entrant” means a person—

(a) unlawfully entering or seeking to enter in breach of a deportation order or of the immigration laws, or
(b) entering or seeking to enter by means which include deception by another person,

and includes also a person who has entered as mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) above;”.

F13(2) ..............................................................
Textual Amendments

F13 Sch. 2 para. 4(2) repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 114, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4); (which amending provision is extended (with modifications) to Jersey (5.6.2003) by S.I. 2003/1252, art. 2, Sch.)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C12 Sch. 2 para. 4(1)(2) extended (Guernsey) (with modifications) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1264, art. 3, Sch.
C13 Sch. 2 para. 4(1)(2) extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (22.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch.

Commencement Information

I8 Sch. 2 para. 4 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 2 para. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 4 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

Information and documents

5 (1) In sub-paragraph (2)(b) of paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (information and documents), after the words “is carrying or conveying”, in the first place where they occur, there shall be inserted the words “, or has carried or conveyed,”.

(2) In sub-paragraph (3) of that paragraph—

(a) after the words “is carrying or conveying” there shall be inserted the words “, or has carried or conveyed,”;

(b) for the words from “he and any” to “control” there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(a) he and any baggage or vehicle belonging to him or under his control; and

(b) any ship, aircraft or vehicle in which he arrived in the United Kingdom,”; and

(c) after the words “is doing” there shall be inserted the words “ or, as the case may be, has done ”.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)


Commencement Information

I9 Sch. 2 para. 5 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 2 para. 5 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 5 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

Removal of illegal entrants

6 Paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (removal of illegal entrants) shall be renumbered as sub-paragraph (1) of that paragraph; and after that provision as so renumbered there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

“(2) Any leave to enter the United Kingdom which is obtained by deception shall be disregarded for the purposes of this paragraph.”
Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 (c. 49)

SCHEDULE 2 – Amendments of the 1971 Act and the Immigration Act 1988

Document Generated: 2021-08-06

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C15 Sch. 2 para. 6 extended (Guernsey) (with modifications) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1264, art. 3, Sch. 2 para. 6 extended (Jersey) (with modifications) (22.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch.

Commencement Information

I10 Sch. 2 para. 6 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 2 para. 6 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 6 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

Arrest of persons liable to detention

7 In sub-paragraph (2)(b) of paragraph 17 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (arrest of persons liable to detention), the words “magistrate or” shall cease to have effect.

Commencement Information

I11 Sch. 2 para. 7 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 2 para. 7 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 7 in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

Recovery of expenses incurred in detaining persons refused leave to enter

8 In sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (recovery of expenses incurred in detaining persons refused leave to enter), for the words “at any time” there shall be substituted the words “for any period (not exceeding 14 days) ”.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C16 Sch. 2 para. 8 extended (Guernsey) (20.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1264, art. 3, Sch. 2 para. 8 extended (Jersey) (22.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1070, art. 3, Sch.

Commencement Information

I12 Sch. 2 para. 8 wholly in force at 1.9.1996; Sch. 2 para. 8 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 8 in force at 1.9.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. II

Recovery of expenses incurred in detaining illegal entrants

9 (1) In sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 20 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (recovery of expenses incurred in detaining illegal entrants), for the words “at any time” there shall be substituted the words “for any period (not exceeding 14 days)”.

(2) After that sub-paragraph there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraph—

“(1A) Sub-paragraph (1) above shall not apply to expenses in respect of an illegal entrant if he obtained leave to enter by deception and the leave has not been cancelled under paragraph 6(2) above.”.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

Temporary admission of persons liable to detention

10 After sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 21 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (temporary admission of persons liable to detention) there shall be inserted the following sub-paragraphs—

“(3) Sub-paragraph (4) below applies where a person who is at large in the United Kingdom by virtue of this paragraph is subject to a restriction as to reporting to an immigration officer with a view to the conclusion of his examination under paragraph 2 above.

(4) If the person fails at any time to comply with that restriction—

(a) an immigration officer may direct that the person’s examination under paragraph 2 above shall be treated as concluded at that time; but

(b) nothing in paragraph 6 above shall require the notice giving or refusing him leave to enter the United Kingdom to be given within twenty-four hours after that time.”

Temporary release of persons liable to detention

11 (1) For sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 22 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act (temporary release of persons liable to detention) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraphs—

“(1) The following, namely—

(a) a person detained under paragraph 16(1) above pending examination; and

(b) a person detained under paragraph 16(2) above pending the giving of directions,

may be released on bail in accordance with this paragraph.

(1A) An immigration officer not below the rank of chief immigration officer or an adjudicator may release a person so detained on his entering into a recognizance or, in Scotland, bail bond conditioned for his appearance before an immigration officer at a time and place named in the recognizance or bail bond or at such other time and place as may in the meantime be notified to him in writing by an immigration officer.
(1B) Sub-paragraph (1)(a) above shall not apply unless seven days have elapsed since the date of the person’s arrival in the United Kingdom.”

(2) In sub-paragraph (2) of that paragraph—
   (a) for the word “adjudicator”, in the first place where it occurs, there shall be substituted the words “immigration officer or adjudicator”; and
   (b) for the word “adjudicator”, in the second place where it occurs, there shall be substituted the words “officer or adjudicator”.

(3) In sub-paragraph (3) of that paragraph—
   (a) for the word “adjudicator”, in the first place where it occurs, there shall be substituted the words “immigration officer or adjudicator”; and
   (b) for the word “adjudicator”, in the second and third places where it occurs, there shall be substituted the words “officer or adjudicator”.

Grant of bail pending removal

After paragraph 33 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“Grant of bail pending removal

(1) Paragraph 22 above shall apply in relation to a person—
   (a) directions for whose removal from the United Kingdom are for the time being in force; and
   (b) who is for the time being detained under Part I of this Schedule, as it applies in relation to a person detained under paragraph 16(1) above pending examination or detained under paragraph 16(2) above pending the giving of directions.

(2) Paragraphs 23 to 25 above shall apply as if any reference to paragraph 22 above included a reference to that paragraph as it applies by virtue of this paragraph.”

Supplementary provisions as to deportation

In paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 3 to the 1971 Act (supplementary provisions as to deportation), after the words “the police” there shall be inserted the words “or an immigration officer”.

Commencement Information

I15 Sch. 2 para. 11 wholly in force at 1.9.1996; Sch. 2 para. 11 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 11 in force at 1.9.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. II

I16 Sch. 2 para. 12 wholly in force at 1.9.1996; Sch. 2 para. 12 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 2 para. 12 in force at 1.9.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. II
SCHEDULE 3 – Amendments of the 1993 Act

AMENDMENTS OF THE 1993 ACT

Curtailment of leave to enter or remain

Textual Amendments

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<td>F14</td>
<td>Sch. 3 para. 1</td>
<td>repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 115, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4)</td>
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Appeals to special adjudicator

Textual Amendments

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<td>F15</td>
<td>Sch. 3 para. 2</td>
<td>repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 115, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4)</td>
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Bail pending appeal from Immigration Appeal Tribunal

After section 9 of the 1993 Act there shall be inserted the following section—

“9A  Bail pending appeal from Immigration Appeal Tribunal

“9A  “9A Bail pending appeal from Immigration Appeal Tribunal

(1) Where a person (“an appellant”)—

(a) has an appeal under Part II of the 1971 Act which is pending by reason of an appeal, or an application for leave to appeal, under section 9 above; and

(b) is for the time being detained under Part I of Schedule 2 to that Act (general provisions as to control on entry etc.),

he may be released on bail in accordance with this section.
(2) An immigration officer not below the rank of chief immigration officer, a police officer not below the rank of inspector or an adjudicator may release an appellant on his entering into a recognizance or, in Scotland, bail bond conditioned for his appearance before the appropriate appeal court at a time and place named in the recognizance or bail bond.

(3) The Immigration Appeal Tribunal may release an appellant on his entering into a recognizance or, in Scotland, bail bond conditioned for his appearance before the appropriate appeal court at a time and place named in the recognizance or bail bond; and where—
   (a) the appeal, or the application for leave to appeal, under section 9 above is by the Secretary of State; or
   (b) the appellant has been granted leave to appeal under that section, and has duly given notice of appeal,

the Tribunal shall, if the appellant so requests, exercise its powers under this subsection.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (5) and (6) of paragraph 29 (grant of bail pending appeal) of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act shall apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that paragraph.

(5) Paragraphs 30 to 33 of that Schedule shall apply as if—
   (a) any reference to paragraph 29 included a reference to this section;
   (b) the reference in paragraph 30(2) to paragraph 29(3) or (4) included a reference to subsection (3) above; and
   (c) any reference in paragraphs 31 to 33 to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal included a reference to the appropriate appeal court.

(6) In this section “the appropriate appeal court” has the same meaning as in section 9 above.”

Commencement Information

I18 Sch. 3 para. 3 wholly in force at 1.9.1996; Sch. 3 para. 3 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 3 para. 3 in force at 1.9.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. II

PROSPECTIVE

Security of tenure

4 In paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 1 to the 1993 Act (security of tenure)—
   (a) after the words “Part III of the Act of 1985” there shall be inserted the words “ or Part II of the Act of 1987 ”; and
   (b) after the words “ the 1988 Housing Act 1988 ” there shall be inserted the words “ or the 1988 Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 ”.

Marginal Citations
M9 1988 c.50.
Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 August 2021. 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

M10 1988 c.43.

Appeals to special adjudicator: supplementary

Textual Amendments

F16 Sch. 3 para. 5 repealed (2.10.2000) by 1999 c. 33, s. 169(1)(3), Sch. 14 paras. 108, 115, Sch. 16; S.I. 2000/2444, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with transitional provisions in arts. 3, 4)

SCHEDULE 4

REPEALS

Commencement Information

I19 Sch. 4 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; Sch. 4 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 13(3); Sch. 4 in force for certain purposes at 1.9.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. II; Sch. 4 wholly in force at 1.10.1996 by S.I. 1996/2053, art. 2, Sch. Pt. III

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<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Extent of repeal</th>
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<td>1971 c.77.</td>
<td>Immigration Act 1971.</td>
<td>In Schedule 2, in paragraph 17(2)(b), the words “magistrate or”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 c.23.</td>
<td>Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.</td>
<td>In section 8(3), the words from “but a person” to the end.</td>
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View outstanding changes

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to:**
- s. 4 repealed by 1999 c. 33 Sch. 16
- s. 5 repealed by 2002 c. 41 Sch. 9