



# Constitutional Reform Act 2005

## 2005 CHAPTER 4

### PART 5

#### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS: NORTHERN IRELAND

### CHAPTER 1

#### APPOINTMENTS

##### *Complaints and references*

## **132 Confidentiality in relation to judicial appointments and discipline**

After section 9H of the 2002 Act insert—

### **“9I Confidentiality in relation to judicial appointments and discipline**

- (1) A person who obtains confidential information, or to whom confidential information is provided, under or for the purposes of a relevant provision must not disclose it except with lawful authority.
- (2) These are the relevant provisions—
  - (a) section 12, 12A and 12B of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (appointment and removal of Lord Chief Justice, Lords Justices of Appeal and judges of High Court);
  - (b) sections 3, 5, 7 and 9 to 9H of this Act (appointment and removal of judicial officers, and appointment and removal of lay magistrates);
  - (c) sections 134 and 135 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (removal from judicial offices);
  - (d) section 16 of this Act (complaints about judicial officers);

---

**Changes to legislation:** Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Section 132 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

---

- (3) Information is confidential if it relates to an identified or identifiable individual (a “subject”).
- (4) Confidential information is disclosed with lawful authority only if and to the extent that any of the following applies—
  - (a) the disclosure is with the consent of each person who is a subject of the information (but this is subject to subsection (5));
  - (b) the disclosure is for (and is necessary for) the exercise by any person of functions under a relevant provision or a decision whether to exercise them;
  - (c) the disclosure is required, under rules of court or a court order, for the purposes of legal proceedings of any description.
- (5) An opinion or other information given by one identified or identifiable individual (A) about another (B)—
  - (a) is information that relates to both;
  - (b) must not be disclosed to B without A's consent.
- (6) This section does not prevent the disclosure with the agreement of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of information as to disciplinary action taken in accordance with a relevant provision.
- (7) This section does not prevent the disclosure of information which is already, or has previously been, available to the public from other sources.
- (8) A contravention of this section in respect of any information is actionable, subject to the defences and other incidents applying to actions for breach of statutory duty.
- (9) But it is actionable only at the suit of a person who is a subject of the information.

*Transfer of functions of justices of the peace”*

**Changes to legislation:**

Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Section 132 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:**

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

- s. 132(4A) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 s. 83\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(10\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words substituted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(10\)\(b\)](#)