



Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021

2021 CHAPTER 11

PART 1

SENTENCING OF TERRORIST AND CERTAIN OTHER OFFENDERS

Serious terrorism sentences

5 Serious terrorism sentence for adults aged 21 or over: England and Wales

After section 282 of the Sentencing Code insert—

“Serious terrorism sentence

282A Serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment: persons 21 or over

A serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment is a sentence of imprisonment the term of which is equal to the aggregate of—

- (a) the appropriate custodial term (see section 282C), and
- (b) a further period (the “extension period”) for which the offender is to be subject to a licence.

282B Serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment: circumstances in which required

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where a court is dealing with an offender for a serious terrorism offence (see section 306(2)) where—
 - (a) the offence was committed on or after the day on which section 5 of the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 came into force,
 - (b) the offender was aged 18 or over when the offence was committed,

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- (c) the offender is aged 21 or over when convicted of the offence,
 - (d) the court is of the opinion that there is a significant risk to members of the public of serious harm occasioned by the commission by the offender of further serious terrorism offences or other specified offences (see section 308),
 - (e) the court does not impose a sentence of imprisonment for life, and
 - (f) the risk of multiple deaths condition is met.
- (2) The court must impose a serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment under section 282A unless the court is of the opinion that there are exceptional circumstances which—
- (a) relate to the offence or to the offender, and
 - (b) justify not doing so.
- (3) The risk of multiple deaths condition is that the court is of the opinion that—
- (a) either—
 - (i) the serious terrorism offence, or
 - (ii) the combination of the offence and one or more offences associated with it,was very likely to result in or contribute to (whether directly or indirectly) the deaths of at least two people as a result of an act of terrorism (within the meaning of section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000), and
 - (b) the offender was, or ought to have been, aware of that likelihood.
- (4) It is irrelevant for the purposes of determining whether the risk of multiple deaths condition is met whether or not any death actually occurred.
- (5) Where an offence is found to have been committed over a period of 2 or more days, or at some time during a period of 2 or more days, it must be taken for the purposes of subsection (1) to have been committed on the last of those days.
- (6) The pre-sentence report requirements (see section 30) apply to the court in relation to forming the opinion mentioned in subsection (1)(d).

282C Term of serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment

- (1) This section applies where the court dealing with an offender is required by section 282B to impose a serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment under section 282A.
- (2) The appropriate custodial term is—
- (a) 14 years, or
 - (b) if longer, the term of imprisonment that would be imposed in respect of the offence in compliance with section 231(2) (length of discretionary custodial sentences) if the court did not impose a serious terrorism sentence of imprisonment (or an extended sentence or a sentence under section 278).
- (3) The extension period must be a period of such length as the court considers necessary for the purpose of protecting members of the public from serious harm occasioned by the commission by the offender of further serious terrorism offences or other specified offences.

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

This is subject to subsection (4).

- (4) The extension period must—
- (a) be at least 7 years, and
 - (b) not exceed 25 years.”