



Police Act 1997

1997 CHAPTER 50

PART V

CERTIFICATES OF CRIMINAL RECORDS, &C.

[^{F1}126ZA] Protected convictions

- (1) For the purposes of this Part a conviction is a protected conviction if—
 - (a) it is a spent conviction, and
 - (b) either—
 - (i) it is not a conviction for an offence listed in schedule 8A or 8B, or
 - (ii) it is a conviction for an offence listed in schedule 8B and at least one of the conditions specified in subsection (2) is satisfied.
- (2) The conditions are—
 - (a) the disposal in respect of the conviction was an admonition or an absolute discharge,
 - (b) the person was aged under 18 on the date of conviction and at least 7 years and 6 months have passed since the date of the conviction,
 - (c) the person was aged 18 or over on the date of conviction and at least 15 years have passed since the date of the conviction.
- (3) In subsection (2)(a), the reference to an absolute discharge includes a reference to the discharge of the referral of a child's case to a children's hearing under—
 - (a) section 69(1)(b) and (12) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, or
 - (b) section 91(3)(b), 93(2)(b), 108(3)(b), or 119(3)(b) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011.]

Changes to legislation: Police Act 1997, Section 126ZA is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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](#)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 126ZA, 126ZB inserted (S.) (8.2.2016) by [The Police Act 1997 and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act 2007 Remedial \(No. 2\) Order 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/423\)](#), arts. 1(2), **3(7)** (with arts. 5-10, 12)

Changes to legislation:

Police Act 1997, Section 126ZA is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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.

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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. 112(2A) inserted by [2011 c. 24 \(N.I.\) s. 101](#)
- s. 112(2A) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 93](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 93 repealed (10.9.2012) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, ss. 79(1), 120, Sch. 10 Pt. 6; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2(cc))
- s. 113(3)(e) words inserted by [S.S.I. 2006/50 art. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 113(3G) inserted by [2002 c. 32 Sch. 12 para. 14](#)
- s. 113(3G) inserted by 2002 c. 32, Sch. 12 para. 14 (as extended) by [2003 asp 5 s. 12\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 113(3EA)(3EB) inserted by [S.I. 2003/417 \(N.I.\) art. 17\(4\)](#)
- s. 113(3EC)(3ED) inserted by [S.I. 2003/417 \(N.I.\) art. 47\(3\)](#)
- s. 113(4A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 35 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 113(4A) insertion by 2003 c. 44, Sch. 35 para. 3(3) extended to N.I. by [2005 c. 15 s. 167\(a\)](#)
- s. 113A(6A)-(6C) inserted by [2011 asp 1 s. 188\(b\)](#)
- s. 115(5)(ec) inserted by [2002 c. 32 Sch. 12 para. 15\(2\)](#)
- s. 115(5)(ec) inserted by 2002 c. 32, Sch. 12 para. 15(2) (as extended) by [2003 asp 5 s. 12\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 115(5)(ga) inserted by [2001 c. 12 s. 21](#) (Amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 21 repealed (6.4.2006 for E.W.) by 2003 c. 44, Sch. 37 Pt. 11; S.I. 2006/751, art. 2(d))
- s. 115(6BB) inserted by [2002 c. 32 Sch. 12 para. 15\(3\)](#)
- s. 115(6BB) inserted by 2002 c. 32, Sch. 12 para. 15(3) (as extended) by [2003 asp 5 s. 12\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 115(6EA) inserted by [S.I. 2003/417 \(N.I.\) art. 17\(5\)](#)
- s. 115(6EB) inserted by [S.I. 2003/417 \(N.I.\) art. 47\(4\)](#)
- s. 115(9A)(9B) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 35 para. 4\(5\)](#)
- s. 115(9A)(9B) insertion by 2003 c. 44, Sch. 35 para. 4(5) extended to N.I. by [2005 c. 15 s. 167\(a\)](#)
- s. 118(2ZA) inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 95](#)
- s. 118(2ZA) words substituted by [S.I. 2012/3006 art. 37\(j\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 118(2ZA) by 2009 c. 26, s. 95 is still prospective)
- s. 121(a) inserted by [2006 asp 10 s. 3\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 8A para. 34G inserted by [S.I. 2024/374 Sch. 5 para. 3](#)
- Sch. 8B para. 102(ea) inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 3\(2\)](#)