



Criminal Justice Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 44

PART 12

SENTENCING

CHAPTER 6

[^{F1} RELEASE, LICENCES^{F1}, SUPERVISION] AND RECALL]

[^{F2} Further release after recall]

[^{F2} 255C [^{F1} Prisoners not suitable for automatic release]

- (1) This section applies to a prisoner (“P”) [^{F3}—
 - (a) whose suitability for automatic release does not have to be considered under section 255A(2), or
 - (b) who is not considered suitable for automatic release.]
- (2) The Secretary of State may, at any time after P is returned to prison, release P again on licence under this Chapter.
- (3) The Secretary of State must not release P under subsection (2) unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that it is not necessary for the protection of the public that P should remain in prison.
- (4) The Secretary of State must refer P's case to the Board—
 - (a) if P makes representations under section 254(2) before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which P returns to custody, on the making of those representations, or
 - (b) if, at the end of that period, P has not been released under subsection (2) and has not made such representations, at that time.

Changes to legislation: *Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 255C is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 July 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*

- [^{F4}(4A) The Board must not give a direction for P’s release on a reference under subsection (4) unless the Board is satisfied that it is not necessary for the protection of the public that P should remain in prison.]
- (5) Where on a reference under subsection (4) the Board directs P’s ^{F5}... release on licence under this Chapter, the Secretary of State must give effect to the direction.
- (6) Subsection (7) applies if P is recalled before the date on which P would (but for the earlier release) have served the requisite custodial period for the purposes of section 243A or (as the case may be) section 244.
- (7) Where this subsection applies—
- (a) if P is released under this section before that date, P’s licence must include a curfew condition complying with section 253, and
 - (b) P is not to be so released (despite subsection (5)) unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that arrangements are in place to enable that condition to be complied with.
- (8) For the purposes of this section, P returns to custody when P, having been recalled, is detained (whether or not in prison) in pursuance of the sentence.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 255C heading substituted (29.6.2021) by [Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 \(c. 11\)](#), s. 50(2)(v), [Sch. 13 para. 9\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- F2** S. 255A-255C and crossheading substituted for s. 255A-255D (3.12.2012) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), [ss. 114\(1\)](#), 151(1) (with [Sch. 15](#)); S.I. 2012/2906, art. 2(d)
- F3** S. 255C(1)(a)(b) and word substituted (28.4.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 132\(7\)](#), 208(4)(p)
- F4** S. 255C(4A) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 136\(3\)](#), 208(1); S.I. 2022/520, reg. 5(o)
- F5** Word in s. 255C(5) omitted (28.6.2022) by virtue of [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 139\(2\)\(b\)](#), 208(1); S.I. 2022/520, reg. 5(o)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 12 Ch. 6 modified (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), [s. 245\(1\)\(2\)\(c\)](#), 416(1) (with [ss. 2](#), 245(3), 398(1), 406, [Sch. 27](#)); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2
- C2** Pt. 12 Ch. 6 modified (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), [s. 244\(1\)\(2\)\(c\)](#), 416(1) (with [ss. 2](#), 244(3), 398(1), 406, [Sch. 27](#)); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2

Changes to legislation:

Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 255C is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 July 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 :

- s. 255C(2) words inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 255C(4) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 255C(5) substituted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(e\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2574, Sch. by [S.I. 2012/2761 art. 2](#)

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. 256AZBA-256AZBC and cross-heading inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 62\(1\)](#)
- s. 256AZBC(1) power to amend or apply conferred by 2012 c.10, s. 128(3A) (as inserted) by [2024 c. 21 s. 60\(3\)](#)
- s. 150(aa) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 150(ba) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 151(A1) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(3\)](#)
- s. 151(1A) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(1A)(b) word substituted by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 76\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(1A)(c) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(2A)(b) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 151(4A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(a) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(c)-(f) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 165(5) inserted by [2014 c. 12 s. 179\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1B)(f)(g) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 40\(b\)](#)
- s. 237A237B inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 59\(2\)](#)
- s. 237A power to amend conferred by 2012 c.10, s. 128(3)(aaza) (as inserted) by [2024 c. 21 s. 60\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 239A inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- s. 239A cross-heading inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 5](#)
- s. 250(5C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 250(5D) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 64\(3\)](#)
- s. 255A(4A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 255B(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255B(3A) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 59\(5\)](#)
- s. 255B(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 255C(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255C(3A) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 59\(6\)](#)

- s. 255C(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 256A(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 256A(1) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 256A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 256A(5)(6) substituted for s. 256A(5) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 256AZA inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 10\(1\)](#)
- s. 256AZB(3) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 59\(7\)](#)
- s. 257(3) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(4\)](#)
- s. 258(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(5\)](#)
- s. 260(4)(aa) substituted for word by [2008 c. 4 s. 34\(7\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 34(2)(4)(b)(7)(10) omitted (3.12.2012) by virtue of 2012 c. 10, s. 118(4)(b); S.I. 2012/2906, art. 2(d))
- s. 268A inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 70](#)
- s. 327(4A)(ca) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 65](#)
- Sch. 15B para. 49A omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 15B para. 49B omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 18B inserted by [2024 c. 21 Sch. 2](#)
- Sch. 19 para. 2(2)(e) and word inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 74\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 19 para. 2(2A) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 74\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 20B para. 34(6)(7) substituted for Sch. 20B para. 34(6) by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 10](#)