



Armed Forces Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 52

PART 9

SENTENCING: PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 1

PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES APPLYING TO SERVICE COURTS AND SUMMARY HEARINGS

General sentencing principles

239 Reduction in sentences for guilty pleas

- (1) This section applies where an offender—
 - (a) has pleaded guilty to a service offence in proceedings before a court; or
 - (b) at a summary hearing in respect of a service offence, has admitted the offence.
- (2) In determining what sentence to pass on the offender, the court or officer dealing with him for his offence must take into account—
 - (a) the stage in the proceedings for the offence at which he indicated his intention to plead guilty or his intention to admit the offence at a summary hearing; and
 - (b) the circumstances in which this indication was given.
- (3) In subsection (2) “sentence” includes any order made when dealing with the offender in respect of his offence.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies in the case of an offence the sentence for which, as a result of section 225(2) or 226(2) of this Act (required custodial sentences), falls to be imposed under [^{F1}section 313(2A) or 314(2A)] [^{F2}of the Sentencing Code].
- (5) Nothing in [^{F3}section 313(2A) or 314(2A)] [^{F4}of that Code] prevents the court, after taking into account any matter mentioned in subsection (2) above, from imposing any

Changes to legislation: Armed Forces Act 2006, Section 239 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 August 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

sentence which is at least 80% of that specified in [F3section 313(2A) or 314(2A)][F4of that Code].

[F5(6) Nothing in section [F6227A(1A) or (2)] prevents the court, after taking into account any matter mentioned in subsection (2) of this section, from imposing any sentence which is at least 80% of that specified in section [F6227A(1A) or (2)].]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 239(4) substituted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), s. 208(5)(k), **Sch. 12 para. 7(2)** (with s. 124(11)(12))
- F2** Words in s. 239(4) substituted (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), **Sch. 25 para. 54(a)** (with s. 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2
- F3** Words in s. 239(5) substituted (28.6.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), s. 208(5)(k), **Sch. 12 para. 7(3)** (with s. 124(11)(12))
- F4** Words in s. 239(5) substituted (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), **Sch. 25 para. 54(b)** (with s. 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2
- F5** S. 239(6) inserted (3.12.2012) by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10), s. 151(1), **Sch. 26 para. 26**; S.I. 2012/2770, art. 2(f)
- F6** Words in s. 239(6) substituted (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), **Sch. 25 para. 54(c)** (with s. 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 239(6) modified (1.12.2020 immediately before the consolidation date (see 2020 c. 9, ss. 3, 5(2) (3) and 2020 c. 17, ss. 2, 416)) by Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Act 2020 (c. 9), **ss. 1, 5(2)(3)** (with s. 5(9)); S.I. 2012/1236, reg. 2

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 239 in force at 28.3.2009 for specified purposes by S.I. 2009/812, **art. 3(a)(b)** (with transitional provisions in S.I. 2009/1059)
- I2** S. 239 in force at 31.10.2009 in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2009/1167, **art. 4**

Changes to legislation:

Armed Forces Act 2006, Section 239 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 August 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. 239(6) words omitted by [2020 c. 17 Sch. 26 para. 18](#)
- specified provision(s) transitional provisions for effects of commencing SI 2009/812 by [S.I. 2009/1059 Order](#)

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):

- Pt. 12A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2009/1059, art. 106A (as inserted) by [S.I. 2024/619 reg. 44\(2\)](#)
- Pt. 12A inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 7](#)
- Pt. 16B inserted by [2023 c. 48 s. 1](#)
- s. 50(2)(ca) inserted by [2011 c. 18 Sch. 4 para. 3\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 4 para. 3(3) repealed (8.3.2015) without ever being in force by [2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 82\(2\)](#); S.I. 2015/373, art. 2(g)(ii))
- s. 209(8) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(3\)](#)
- s. 213(3A) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(6\)](#)
- s. 218A(6A) inserted by Sch. 26 para. 12(1)(db) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 218A(6A) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 12\(1\)\(dc\)](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(d)(i) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(i\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(d)(iii) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(i\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(da) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(7\)](#)
- s. 219A(1)(da)(i) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219A(2A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 14\(bb\)](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 219ZA inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 2](#)
- s. 219ZA(1)(e) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(a\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 219ZA(4)-(6) omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(b\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 219ZA(7) words omitted by virtue of [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 13A\(c\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 223(1A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 224A(1)(d)(iii) and word inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(9\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 224A(1)(d)(iii) words substituted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 224A(1A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 224A(3A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(9\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 224B inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 9](#)
- s. 225(1A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15A](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(4\)](#)
- s. 226(1A) inserted by [2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 15B](#) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(4\)](#)
- s. 227(3)(a)(b) substituted for words by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(10\)](#)

- s. 238(6)(a) word omitted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 238(6)(b) word substituted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 238(6)(aa) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(11\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 239(3A)(3B) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 3](#)
- s. 239(3A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(a)(i) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 239(3A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(a)(ii) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 239(3B) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch 26 para. 18(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 260(1)(ca) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(14\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 260(1)(ca) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(a)(iia) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(a) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(b)(ii) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(za) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(14\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 260(4B)(za) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 19(b)(i) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 261(1)(ba) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(15\)](#)
- s. 261(1)(ba) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20(c) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(a) words in s. 261A(3) renumbered as s. 261A(3)(a) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 4\(a\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(b)(c) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 4\(b\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(b) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20A(a) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 261A(3)(c)(i) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 20A(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 262A(2A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 262A(2A)(b) omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(a) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 262A(3A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 262A(3A) omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(b) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 41\(16\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 262A(4) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 21(c) (as substituted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(h\)](#)
- s. 270A270B inserted by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 25 para. 27](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 25 para. 26(3)(4) repealed (2.4.2012) by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 3 para. 20(3), Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(d)(f) (with art. 13))
- s. 270B(6)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10) word repealed by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 23 Pt. 5](#)
- s. 270B(10)(a) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 270B(10)(c)-(e) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 9\(3\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 17 para. 9 repealed (2.4.2012) without ever being in force by 2011 c. 18, Sch. 5; S.I. 2012/669, art. 4(f))
- s. 304B inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 8](#)
- s. 304C inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 9](#)
- s. 304C(5A) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 8 para. 5](#)

- s. 304C(5A) words omitted by virtue of 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 24A(a) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 304C(5A) words substituted by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 24A(b) (as inserted) by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 43\(7\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 304F-304H inserted by [2016 c. 21 s. 12](#)
- s. 377(8) inserted by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 26 para. 26 (as inserted) by [S.I. 2020/1520 reg. 6\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 9(A1) inserted by [2020 c. 9 Sch. 2 para. 123\(8\)\(a\)](#) (This pre-consolidation amendment comes into force immediately before the consolidation date on 1.12.2020 (see 2020 c. 9, ss. 3, 5(2)(3) and 2020 c. 17, ss. 2, 416) to facilitate the sentencing consolidation and then is repealed immediately afterwards on 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)