
Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Naval Discipline Act 1957 (repealed), Cross Heading: Suspension and reconsideration of sentences of imprisonment and detention is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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)



Naval Discipline Act 1957 (repealed)

1957 CHAPTER 53 5 and 6 Eliz 2

PART II U.K.

TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENCES

Suspension and reconsideration of sentences of imprisonment and detention

Textual Amendments applied to the whole legislation

F1 Act repealed (prosp.) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 378, 383, [Sch. 17](#) and the repeal being partly in force, as to which see individual provisions

90 Suspension of sentences. U.K.

- (1) Where any person has been sentenced under this Act to imprisonment or detention, the authority having power under section eighty-one of this Act to issue a committal order may, in lieu of issuing such an order, order that the sentence be suspended; and in any such case the sentence shall not begin to run until a committal order is issued under section ninety-one of this Act.
- (2) Where any person has been sentenced under this Act to imprisonment or detention and a committal order in respect of that sentence has been issued under the said section eighty-one, the sentence may be suspended by an order made—
 - (a) in any case, by [^{F1}the Defence Council] or by any officer holding such command as may be prescribed by regulations made by [^{F1}the Defence Council];
 - (b) where the committal order was issued by an officer not holding such command, by that officer;

and in any such case the offender shall be released and the currency of the sentence suspended until a further committal order is issued in respect of that sentence under section ninety-one of this Act.

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- (3) Where a sentence is suspended under this section, [^{F1}the Defence Council] or, subject to any regulations or directions made or given by [^{F1}the Defence Council], any other authority by whom the sentence is suspended, may direct that any other punishment which the suspended sentence involves shall be suspended or remitted; but except as aforesaid the suspension of a sentence under this section shall not affect any such other punishment.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words substituted by [S.I. 1964/488](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

91 Committal or re-committal of persons under suspended sentence. **U.K.**

- (1) Where a sentence of imprisonment or detention is suspended under section ninety of this Act, a committal order may at any time be issued in respect of the sentence—
- (a) in any case, by [^{F2}the Defence Council] or by any officer holding such command as may be prescribed by regulations made by [^{F2}the Defence Council];
 - (b) where a committal order under section eighty-one of this Act had been issued before the suspension of the sentence by an officer not holding such command, by that officer.
- (2) In relation to a sentence in respect of which a committal order has been issued under this section, subsection (2) of section ninety of this Act and subsection (1) of this section shall apply as if for any reference to a committal order under section eighty-one of this Act there were substituted a reference to the committal order under this section.
- (3) Where any person whose sentence is suspended under the said section ninety is, during the suspension, found guilty under this Act of another offence for which he is sentenced to imprisonment or detention, then, subject to any recommendation to the contrary made by the court or officer by whom he is so sentenced, and subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of section eighty-nine of this Act,—
- (a) the authority by whom a committal order under subsection (1) of this section is issued in respect of the suspended sentence, or
 - (b) the authority by whom a committal order under section eighty-one of this Act or under subsection (1) of this section is issued in respect of the further sentence
- may direct that the sentence in respect of which the order is issued shall begin to run from the expiration of the other sentence.

Textual Amendments

F2 Words substituted by [S.I. 1964/488](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

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VALID FROM 18/07/2008

[^{F3}91A Activation of suspended sentence by court-martial: appeals U.K.

- (1) Subsections (2) to (4) apply where a court-martial makes an order under section 91(1) of this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of the Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968 (c. 20) (“the 1968 Act”)—
 - (a) the order is to be treated as a sentence passed on the offender for the offence for which the sentence was passed;
 - (b) if the offender was not convicted by court-martial of that offence, he is to be treated as having been so convicted;
 - (c) any appeal, or application for leave to appeal, against the sentence passed in respect of the new offence is to be treated as also being an appeal or application for leave to appeal against the order; and
 - (d) any appeal, or application for leave to appeal, against the order is to be treated as also being an appeal or application for leave to appeal against the sentence passed in respect of the new offence.
- (3) In relation to any appeal against the order, section 16A of the 1968 Act (powers on appeals against sentence) is to be read as conferring power—
 - (a) to quash the order; or
 - (b) if the court-martial gave a direction under section 91(2) of this Act, to quash the direction.
- (4) Where the Appeal Court quashes the order, or a direction under section 91(2) of this Act, then in relation to any appeal against the sentence passed in respect of the new offence—
 - (a) section 16A of the 1968 Act has effect as if the words “and which is not of greater severity than that for which it is substituted” were omitted; but
 - (b) the Appeal Court may not exercise its powers under that section in such a way that, taking the case as a whole, the appellant is dealt with more severely on appeal than he was dealt with by the court-martial.
- (5) Subsections (6) and (7) apply where a court-martial has power to make an order under section 91(1) of this Act in respect of a sentence (“the suspended sentence”) but does not do so.
- (6) On any appeal against the sentence passed in respect of the new offence, the Appeal Court's power under section 16A of the 1968 Act to pass a sentence in substitution for the sentence of the court-martial includes—
 - (a) power to make an order under section 91(1) of this Act in respect of the suspended sentence; and
 - (b) if the court makes such an order, power to give a direction under section 91(2) of this Act in relation to the order.
- (7) But the Appeal Court may not exercise its powers under subsection (6) in such a way that, taking the case as a whole, the appellant is dealt with more severely on appeal than he was dealt with by the court-martial.
- (8) In this section—
 - (a) “the new offence” means the offence mentioned in section 91(1) of this Act;

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(b) “the Appeal Court” means the Courts-Martial Appeal Court.

Textual Amendments

F3 Ss. 91-91D substituted for s. 91 (18.7.2008) by [The Armed Forces \(Alignment of Service Discipline Acts\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1694\)](#), **art. 31** (with Sch. para. 10)

VALID FROM 18/07/2008

91B Activation of suspended sentence by commanding officer **U.K.**

- (1) Where, while a sentence of detention is suspended under section 90 of this Act—
 - (a) an officer finds the offender guilty on summary trial of an offence committed since the sentence was suspended, or
 - (b) the offender is convicted of an offence in the British Islands committed since the sentence was suspended and subsequently appears before the officer in command of the ship or naval establishment to which he belongs,

the officer may make an order determining the suspension of the sentence (whether or not he also makes a committal order under section 81(3) of this Act, in a case in which he is not prohibited by section 81(4) from doing so).
- (2) Subsections (3) to (8) apply where an officer makes an order under subsection (1).
- (3) If the sentence is for a term of more than 90 days, the order has effect as if the sentence were for a term of 90 days; but this is subject to section 91C of this Act (partial activation by commanding officer of suspended sentence for more than 90 days).
- (4) The sentence in respect of which the order is made is to be treated for the purposes of section 85A of this Act (commencement of sentence of detention awarded on summary trial) as a sentence awarded on summary trial at the time at which the order is made.
- (5) The reference in subsection (3) of that section to the signature of the warrant by the officer by whom the offender was tried is to be read, in relation to the sentence in respect of which the order is made, as a reference to the making, in accordance with regulations made under section 52F of this Act, of an application to higher authority for permission to make the order.
- (6) The officer may direct that the sentence in respect of which the order is made (“the subsequent sentence”) shall begin to run from the end of another sentence of detention (“the current sentence”) which—
 - (a) has been passed on the offender on a previous occasion; or
 - (b) where the order is made by virtue of subsection (1)(a), the officer passes on him on the same occasion.
- (7) Subsection (6) is subject to section 89 of this Act (limitation of total period of sentences of detention), as modified by section 91C of this Act in a case where that section applies.
- (8) Where the officer gives a direction under subsection (6)—

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- (a) section 85A of this Act applies to the subsequent sentence as if the reference in subsection (2) of that section to the day on which the sentence is awarded were to the expiry of the current sentence, and subsection (3) of that section were omitted; and
- (b) where the suspension of the subsequent sentence by virtue of subsection (4) or (5) of that section would end before the expiry of the current sentence, the subsequent sentence shall run from the expiry of the current sentence.

Textual Amendments

F3 Ss. 91-91D substituted for s. 91 (18.7.2008) by [The Armed Forces \(Alignment of Service Discipline Acts\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1694\)](#), **art. 31** (with Sch. para. 10)

VALID FROM 18/07/2008

91C **Partial activation by commanding officer of suspended sentence for more than 90 days** **U.K.**

- (1) This section applies where an officer has made an order under section 91B(1) of this Act (activation of suspended sentence by commanding officer) in respect of a sentence for a term of more than 90 days.
- (2) That part of the term which exceeds 90 days is not to be remitted by virtue of section 89(2) of this Act (limitation of total period of sentences of detention).
- (3) Unless the order is quashed on appeal, sections 91 and 91B of this Act (activation of suspended sentence by court-martial and by commanding officer respectively) have effect as if—
 - (a) the sentence were for that part of the term which exceeds 90 days; and
 - (b) no order determining the suspension of the sentence had been made.
- (4) For the purposes of section 92(3) of this Act (remission of suspended sentence) the date on which the order was made is to be treated as the date on which the suspension of the sentence took effect.

Textual Amendments

F3 Ss. 91-91D substituted for s. 91 (18.7.2008) by [The Armed Forces \(Alignment of Service Discipline Acts\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1694\)](#), **art. 31** (with Sch. para. 10)

VALID FROM 18/07/2008

91D **Activation of suspended sentence by commanding officer: appeals etc.** **U.K.**

- (1) For the purposes of sections 52FF to 52FR and 71B of this Act (appeals and review) an order under section 91B(1) of this Act is to be treated as a punishment awarded for the offence for which the sentence was passed.

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- (2) In relation to any appeal against such an order, section 52FM(4) of this Act (powers of the summary appeal court on an appeal against punishment) has effect as if for paragraphs (a) and (b) there were substituted—
- “(a) may confirm the order;
 (b) may quash the order; or
 (c) if the officer who made the order gave a direction under section 91B(6) of this Act, may confirm the order but quash the direction.”.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply where an officer makes an order under section 91B(1) of this Act by virtue of paragraph (a) of that subsection.
- (4) Any appeal, or application for leave to appeal, against the finding or the punishment awarded in respect of the offence mentioned in that paragraph (“the new offence”) is for the purposes of sections 52FF to 52FR of this Act to be treated as also being an appeal or application for leave to appeal against the order.
- (5) Any appeal, or application for leave to appeal, against the order is for those purposes to be treated as also being an appeal or application for leave to appeal against the punishment awarded in respect of the new offence.
- (6) Where the summary appeal court quashes the order, or a direction under section 91B(6) of this Act, then—
- (a) in relation to any appeal against the finding of guilt in respect of the new offence, the references in section 52FM(2)(b)(ii) and (3)(b) of this Act to the punishment originally awarded include the order and any such direction given in relation to it (as well as the punishment awarded in respect of the new offence); and
- (b) in relation to any appeal against the punishment awarded in respect of the new offence, the reference in section 52FM(4)(b)(ii) of this Act to the punishment originally awarded includes the order and any such direction given in relation to it (as well as the punishment awarded in respect of the new offence).
- (7) Subsections (8) and (9) apply where an officer has power to make an order under section 91B(1) of this Act by virtue of paragraph (a) of that subsection but does not do so.
- (8) On any appeal against the finding of guilt or the punishment awarded in respect of the new offence, the summary appeal court's powers under section 52FM(2)(b), (3) and (4)(b) of this Act to vary the punishment or substitute another punishment include—
- (a) power to make the order under section 91B(1) of this Act which the officer could have made; and
- (b) power to give any direction under section 91B(6) of this Act which the officer could have given if he had made the order.
- (9) But the court may not exercise its powers under subsection (8) in such a way that, taking the case as a whole, the appellant is dealt with more severely on appeal than he was dealt with by the officer who tried him for the new offence.]

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Textual Amendments

- F3** Ss. 91-91D substituted for s. 91 (18.7.2008) by [The Armed Forces \(Alignment of Service Discipline Acts\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1694\)](#), **art. 31** (with Sch. para. 10)

92 Reconsideration of sentences. **U.K.**

(1) Where any person has been sentenced under this Act to imprisonment or detention and the sentence is not for the time being suspended under section ninety of this Act, the unexpired portion of the sentence may be remitted by an order made—

- (a) in any case, by [^{F4}the Defence Council] or by any officer holding such command as may be prescribed by regulations made by [^{F4}the Defence Council];
- (b) where the committal order or last committal order under section eighty-one or section ninety-one of this Act was issued by an officer not holding such command, by that officer,

and in any such case the offender shall be discharged from custody.

(2) Any sentence of imprisonment or detention which is for the time being suspended under the said section ninety may at any time be reconsidered by [^{F4}the Defence Council] or any other authority by whom the sentence was or could have been suspended, and shall be so reconsidered at intervals of not more than three months; and if on any such reconsideration it appears that the conduct of the offender since his conviction has been such as to justify remission of the sentence, whether in whole or in part, it shall be remitted accordingly.

[^{F5}(3) Without prejudice to subsection (2) above, a sentence of imprisonment or detention which has been suspended shall, unless the suspension has been sooner determined, be remitted by virtue of this subsection at the expiry of one year from the date on which the suspension took effect.]

Textual Amendments

- F4** Words substituted by [S.I. 1964/488](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- F5** S. 92(3) added by [Armed Forces Act 1971 \(c. 33\)](#), **s. 54(2)**

Status:

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