
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1981 No. 1675

The Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

PART V

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE

Preliminary inquiry into indictable offences

Power to conduct preliminary inquiry

31.—(1) If the prosecution requests a magistrates' court to conduct a preliminary inquiry and the accused does not object to such an inquiry, a magistrates' court, instead of conducting a preliminary investigation, may conduct a preliminary inquiry into an indictable offence.

(2) If the prosecution does not request the court to conduct a preliminary inquiry^{F1} or if] the accused objects to such an inquiry the court shall conduct a preliminary investigation.

(3) Where two or more persons are charged together with an indictable offence and—

- (a) one or more of those persons objects to the conducting of a preliminary inquiry, but
- (b) the other person or persons do not so object,

the court may proceed to conduct such an inquiry in respect of any such person not so objecting unless any person so objecting satisfies the court that his interests would be unduly or unreasonably prejudiced by the conduction of such inquiry.

F1 1986 NI 15

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/01/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

The Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, Section 31 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 June 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.