



# Juries Act 1974

## 1974 CHAPTER 23

### 17 Majority verdicts.

- (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, the verdict of a jury in proceedings in the Crown Court or the High Court need not be unanimous if—
  - (a) in a case where there are not less than eleven jurors, ten of them agree on the verdict; and
  - (b) in a case where there are ten jurors, nine of them agree on the verdict.
- (2) Subject to subsection (4) below, the verdict of a jury (that is to say a complete jury of eight) in proceedings in [<sup>F1</sup>the county] court need not be unanimous if seven of them agree on the verdict.
- (3) The Crown Court shall not accept a verdict of guilty by virtue of subsection (1) above unless the foreman of the jury has stated in open court the number of jurors who respectively agreed to and dissented from the verdict.
- (4) No court shall accept a verdict by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) above unless it appears to the court that the jury have had such period of time for deliberation as the court thinks reasonable having regard to the nature and complexity of the case; and the Crown Court shall in any event not accept such a verdict unless it appears to the court that the jury have had at least two hours for deliberation.
- (5) This section is without prejudice to any practice in civil proceedings by which a court may accept a majority verdict with the consent of the parties, or by which the parties may agree to proceed in any case with an incomplete jury.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 17(2) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(3), [Sch. 9 para. 96\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2014/954](#), art. 2(c) (with art. 3) (with transitional provisions and savings in [S.I. 2014/956](#), arts. 3-11)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Juries Act 1974, Section 17.