



Bail Act 1976

1976 CHAPTER 63

An Act to make provision in relation to bail in or in connection with criminal proceedings in England and Wales, to make it an offence to agree to indemnify sureties in criminal proceedings, to make provision for legal aid limited to questions of bail in certain cases and for legal aid for persons kept in custody for inquiries or reports, to extend the powers of coroners to grant bail and for connected purposes.

[15 November 1976]

Extent Information

E1 For extent of Act see [s. 13\(3\)\(4\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act excluded by [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(c. 60, SIF 95\)](#), [ss. 47\(2\)](#), 51, 52
- C2** Act modified (E.W.) by [S.I. 1987/299](#), [art. 8\(1\)](#)
Act applied (E.W.) (*prosp.*) by [1980 c. 43](#), [ss. 4-8](#) (as substituted by [1994 c. 33](#), [s. 44\(2\)\(3\)\(4\)](#), [Sch. 4 Pt.I](#) (which Sch. 4 was repealed (*retrospectively*) by [1996 c. 25](#), [ss. 44\(2\)\(6\)](#), 80, [Sch. 5 para. 1](#)))
Act applied (1.9.2001) by [2001 c. 17](#), [s. 16\(2\)](#) (with [ss. 16\(5\)](#), 78); [S.I. 2001/2161](#), [art. 2](#)
- C3** By [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 101\(1\)](#), [Sch. 12 para.23](#); [S.I. 1991/2208](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch.1](#) it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of [s. 70](#) of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by [S.I. 1992/333](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 Act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.

Commencement Information

I1 Act partly in force at Royal Assent see [s. 13\(2\)](#); Act wholly in force at 17.4.1978

Preliminary

1 Meaning of “bail in criminal proceedings”.

(1) In this Act “bail in criminal proceedings” means—

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (a) bail grantable in or in connection with proceedings for an offence to a person who is accused or convicted of the offence, or
 - (b) bail grantable in connection with an offence to a person who is under arrest for the offence or for whose arrest for the offence a warrant (endorsed for bail) is being issued.
- (2) In this Act “bail” means bail grantable under the law (including common law) for the time being in force.
- (3) Except as provided by section 13(3) of this Act, this section does not apply to bail in or in connection with proceedings outside England and Wales.
- (4) This section does not apply to bail granted before the coming into force of this Act.
- (5) This section applies—
- (a) Whether the offence was committed in England or Wales or elsewhere, and
 - (b) whether it is an offence under the law of England and Wales, or of any other country or territory.
- (6) Bail in criminal proceedings shall be granted (and in particular shall be granted unconditionally or conditionally) in accordance with this Act.

Extent Information

E2 For extent of s. 1 see s. 13(3)(4)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C4 Definition in s. 1 applied (1. 4. 1991) by [Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 \(c. 23, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 7A\(4\)](#); [S.I. 1991/608](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

2 Other definitions.

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, “conviction” includes—
- (a) a finding of guilt,
 - (b) a finding that a person is not guilty by reason of insanity,
 - (c) a finding under [^{F1}section 30(1) of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980] (remand for medical examination) that the person in question did the act or made the omission charged, and
 - (d) a conviction of an offence for which an order is made placing the offender on probation or discharging him absolutely or conditionally,
- and “convicted” shall be construed accordingly.
- (2) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
- [^{F2}“bail hostel” and “probation hostel” have the same meanings as in the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973,]
- “child” means a person under the age of fourteen,
- F3
-
- “court” includes a judge of a court, [^{F4}or a justice of the peace] and, in the case of a specified court, includes a judge or (as the case may be) justice having powers to act in connection with proceedings before that court,

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

“Courts-Martial Appeal rules” means rules made under section 49 of the ^{M1}Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968,

“Crown Court rules” means rules made under section 15 of the ^{M2}Courts Act 1971,

“magistrates’ courts rules” means rules made under section 15 of the Justices of the ^{M3}Peace Act 1949.

“offence” includes an alleged offence,

“proceedings against a fugitive offender” means proceedings under [^{F5}the Extradition Act 1989] or section 2(1) or 4(3) of the ^{M4}Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965,

“Supreme Court rules” means rules made under section 99 of the ^{M5}Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925,

“surrender to custody” means, in relation to a person released on bail, surrendering himself into the custody of the court or of the constable (according to the requirements of the grant of bail) at the time and place for the time being appointed for him to do so,

“vary”, in relation to bail, means imposing further conditions after bail is granted, or varying or rescinding conditions,

“young person” means a person who has attained the age of fourteen and is under the age of seventeen.

- (3) Where an enactment (whenever passed) which relates to bail in criminal proceedings refers to the person bailed appearing before a court it is to be construed unless the context otherwise requires as referring to his surrendering himself into the custody of the court.
- (4) Any reference in this Act to any other enactment is a reference thereto as amended, and includes a reference thereto as extended or applied, by or under any other enactment, including this Act.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words substituted by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), **Sch. 7 para. 143**
- F2** Definitions inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 170, Sch. 8 para. 16, **Sch. 15 para. 52**
- F3** Definition of “coroners' rules” repealed by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\)](#), **Sch. 13**
- F4** Words substituted by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\)](#), **Sch. 12**
- F5** Words substituted by [Extradition Act 1989 \(c. 33, SIF 48\)](#), **s. 36(3)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1968 c. 20.
- M2** 1971 c. 23.
- M3** 1949 c. 101.
- M4** 1965 c. 45.
- M5** 1925 c. 49.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.
Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

Incidents of bail in criminal proceedings

3 General provisions.

- (1) A person granted bail in criminal proceedings shall be under a duty to surrender to custody, and that duty is enforceable in accordance with section 6 of this Act.
- (2) No recognizance for his surrender to custody shall be taken from him.
- (3) Except as provided by this section—
 - (a) no security for his surrender to custody shall be taken from him,
 - (b) he shall not be required to provide a surety or sureties for his surrender to custody, and
 - (c) no other requirement shall be imposed on him as a condition of bail.
- (4) He may be required, before release on bail, to provide a surety or sureties to secure his surrender to custody.
- (5) If it appears that he is unlikely to remain in Great Britain until the time appointed for him to surrender to custody, he may be required, before release on bail, to give security for his surrender to custody.

The security may be given by him or on his behalf.

- (6) He may be required (but only by a court) to comply, before release on bail or later, with such requirements as appear to the court to be necessary to secure that—
 - (a) he surrenders to custody,
 - (b) he does not commit an offence while on bail,
 - (c) he does not interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice whether in relation to himself or any other person,
 - (d) he makes himself available for the purpose of enabling inquiries or a report to be made to assist the court in dealing with him for the offence.

[^{F6}(6ZA) Where he is required under subsection (6) above to reside in a bail hostel or probation hostel, he may also be required to comply with the rules of the hostel.]

[^{F7}(6A) In the case of a person accused of murder the court granting bail shall, unless it considers that satisfactory reports on his mental condition have already been obtained, impose as conditions of bail—

- (a) a requirement that the accused shall undergo examination by two medical practitioners for the purpose of enabling such reports to be prepared; and
- (b) a requirement that he shall for that purpose attend such an institution or place as the court directs and comply with any other directions which may be given to him for that purpose by either of those practitioners.

(6B) Of the medical practitioners referred to in subsection (6A) above at least one shall be a practitioner approved for the purposes of [^{F8}section 12 of the Mental Health Act 1983].]

- (7) If a parent or guardian of a child or young person consents to be surety for the child or young person for the purposes of this subsection, the parent or guardian may be required to secure that the child or young person complies with any requirement imposed on him by virtue of [^{F9}subsection (6) or (6A) above], but—

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (a) no requirement shall be imposed on the parent or the guardian of a young person by virtue of this subsection where it appears that the young person will attain the age of seventeen before the time to be appointed for him to surrender to custody; and
- (b) the parent or guardian shall not be required to secure compliance with any requirement to which his consent does not extend and shall not, in respect of those requirements to which his consent does extend, be bound in a sum greater than £50.
- (8) Where a court has granted bail in criminal proceedings [^{F10}that court or, where that court has committed a person on bail to the Crown Court for trial or to be sentenced or otherwise dealt with, that court or the Crown Court may] on application—
- (a) by or on behalf of the person to whom [^{F10}bail was] granted, or
- (b) by the prosecutor or a constable,
- vary the conditions of bail or impose conditions in respect of bail which [^{F10}has been] granted unconditionally.
- [^{F11}(8A) Where a notice of transfer is given under [^{F12}a relevant transfer provision], subsection (8) above shall have effect in relation to a person in relation to whose case the notice is given as if he had been committed on bail to the Crown Court for trial.]
- (9) This section is subject to [^{F13}subsection (2) of section 30 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980] (conditions of bail on remand for medical examination).
- [^{F14}(10) In subsection (8A) above “relevant transfer provision” means—
- (a) section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987, or
- (b) section 53 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.]

Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 3(6ZA) inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), s. 131(1), **Sch. 8 para. 16**
- F7** S. 3(6A)(6B) inserted by Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 (c. 51, SIF 85), s. 34(2)
- F8** Words substituted by Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20, SIF 85), **Sch. 4 para. 46**
- F9** Words substituted by Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 (c. 51, SIF 85), s. 34(3)
- F10** Words substituted by Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45), **Sch. 12**
- F11** S. 3(8A) inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1987 (c. 38, SIF 39:1), s. 15, **Sch. 2 para. 9**
- F12** Words in s. 3(8A) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 12(a)**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1** Appendix A
- F13** Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 7 para. 144**
- F14** S. 3(10) beginning "In subsection (8A)" inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 12(b)**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1** Appendix A

VALID FROM 01/03/2002

[^{F15}3AA A] Electronic monitoring of compliance with bail conditions

- (1) A court shall not impose on a child or young person a requirement under section 3(6ZAA) above (an “electronic monitoring requirement”) unless each of the following conditions is satisfied.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.
Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (2) The first condition is that the child or young person has attained the age of twelve years.
- (3) The second condition is that—
 - (a) the child or young person is charged with or has been convicted of a violent or sexual offence, or an offence punishable in the case of an adult with imprisonment for a term of fourteen years or more; or
 - (b) he is charged with or has been convicted of one or more imprisonable offences which, together with any other imprisonable offences of which he has been convicted in any proceedings—
 - (i) amount, or
 - (ii) would, if he were convicted of the offences with which he is charged, amount,to a recent history of repeatedly committing imprisonable offences while remanded on bail or to local authority accommodation.
- (4) The third condition is that the court—
 - (a) has been notified by the Secretary of State that electronic monitoring arrangements are available in each petty sessions area which is a relevant area; and
 - (b) is satisfied that the necessary provision can be made under those arrangements.
- (5) The fourth condition is that a youth offending team has informed the court that in its opinion the imposition of such a requirement will be suitable in the case of the child or young person.
- (6) Where a court imposes an electronic monitoring requirement, the requirement shall include provision for making a person responsible for the monitoring; and a person who is made so responsible shall be of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (7) The Secretary of State may make rules for regulating—
 - (a) the electronic monitoring of compliance with requirements imposed on a child or young person as a condition of bail; and
 - (b) without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (a) above, the functions of persons made responsible for securing the electronic monitoring of compliance with such requirements.
- (8) Rules under this section may make different provision for different cases.
- (9) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order or rules under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (10) A statutory instrument containing rules made under this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (11) In this section “local authority accommodation” has the same meaning as in the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (c. 54).
- (12) For the purposes of this section a petty sessions area is a relevant area in relation to a proposed electronic monitoring requirement if the court considers that it will

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

not be practicable to secure the electronic monitoring in question unless electronic monitoring arrangements are available in that area.]

Textual Amendments

F15 S. 3AA inserted (1.3.2002) by 2001 c. 16, s. 131(2); S.I. 2002/344, art. 2 (with transitional provisions in art. 4)

VALID FROM 10/04/1995

[^{F16}3A Conditions of bail in case of police bail.

- (1) Section 3 of this Act applies, in relation to bail granted by a custody officer under Part IV of the ^{M6}Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in cases where the normal powers to impose conditions of bail are available to him, subject to the following modifications.
- (2) Subsection (6) does not authorise the imposition of a requirement to reside in a bail hostel or any requirement under paragraph (d).
- (3) Subsections (6ZA), (6A) and (6B) shall be omitted.
- (4) For subsection (8), substitute the following—
- (”) Where a custody officer has granted bail in criminal proceedings he or another custody officer serving at the same police station may, at the request of the person to whom it was granted, vary the conditions of bail; and in doing so he may impose conditions or more onerous conditions.”.
- (5) Where a constable grants bail to a person no conditions shall be imposed under subsections (4), (5), (6) or (7) of section 3 of this Act unless it appears to the constable that it is necessary to do so for the purpose of preventing that person from—
 - (a) failing to surrender to custody, or
 - (b) committing an offence while on bail, or
 - (c) interfering with witnesses or otherwise obstructing the course of justice, whether in relation to himself or any other person.
- (6) Subsection (5) above also applies on any request to a custody officer under subsection (8) of section 3 of this Act to vary the conditions of bail.]

Textual Amendments

F16 S. 3A inserted (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 27(3); S.I. 1995/721, art. 2, Sch.

Marginal Citations

M6 1984 c. 60.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

Bail for accused persons and others

4 General right to bail of accused persons and others.

- (1) A person to whom this section applies shall be granted bail except as provided in Schedule 1 to this Act.
- (2) This section applies to a person who is accused of an offence when—
 - (a) he appears or is brought before a magistrates' court or the Crown Court in the course of or in connection with proceedings for the offence, or
 - (b) he applies to a court for bail in connection with the proceedings.

This subsection does not apply as respects proceedings on or after a person's conviction of the offence or proceedings against a fugitive offender for the offence.
- (3) This section also applies to a person who, having been convicted of an offence, appears or is brought before a magistrates' court to be dealt with under [F17Part II of Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (breach of requirement of probation, community service, combination or curfew order)].
- (4) This section also applies to a person who has been convicted of an offence and whose case is adjourned by the court for the purpose of enabling inquiries or a report to be made to assist the court in dealing with him for the offence.
- (5) Schedule 1 to this Act also has effect as respects conditions of bail for a person to whom this section applies.
- (6) In Schedule 1 to this Act "the defendant" means a person to whom this section applies and any reference to a defendant whose case is adjourned for inquiries or a report is a reference to a person to whom this section applies by virtue of subsection (4) above.
- (7) This section is subject to [F18section 41 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980] (restriction of bail by magistrates' court in cases of treason).

Textual Amendments

F17 Words in s. 4(3) substituted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, **Sch. 11 para.21**; S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), **Sch.2**.

F18 Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 7 para. 145**

Supplementary

5 Supplementary provisions about decisions on bail.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, where—
 - (a) a court or constable grants bail in criminal proceedings, or
 - (b) a court withholds bail in criminal proceedings from a person to whom section 4 of this act applies, or
 - (c) a court, officer of a court or constable appoints a time or place or a court or officer of a court appoints a different time or place for a person granted bail in criminal proceedings to surrender to custody, or
 - (d) a court varies any conditions of bail or imposes conditions in respect of bail in criminal proceedings,

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

that court, officer or constable shall make a record of the decision in the prescribed manner and containing the prescribed particulars and, if requested to do so by the person in relation to whom the decision was taken, shall cause him to be given a copy of the record of the decision as soon as practicable after the record is made.

- (2) Where bail in criminal proceedings is granted by endorsing a warrant of arrest for bail the constable who releases on bail the person arrested shall make the record required by subsection (1) above instead of the judge or justice who issued the warrant.
- (3) Where a magistrates' court or the Crown Court—
- (a) withholds bail in criminal proceedings, or
 - (b) imposes conditions in granting bail in criminal proceedings, or
 - (c) varies any conditions of bail or imposes conditions in respect of bail in criminal proceedings,

and does so in relation to a person to whom section 4 of this Act applies, then the court shall, with a view to enabling him to consider making an application in the matter to another court, give reasons for withholding bail or for imposing or varying the conditions.

- (4) A court which is by virtue of subsection (3) above required to give reasons for its decision shall include a note of those reasons in the record of its decision and shall (except in a case where, by virtue of subsection (5) below, this need not be done) give a copy of that note to the person in relation to whom the decision was taken.
- (5) The Crown Court need not give a copy of the note of the reasons for its decision to the person in relation to whom the decision was taken where that person is represented by counsel or a solicitor unless his counsel or solicitor requests the court to do so.
- (6) Where a magistrates' court withholds bail in criminal proceedings from a person who is not represented by counsel or a solicitor, the court shall—
- (a) if it is committing him for trial to the Crown Court [^{F19}or if it issues a certificate under subsection (6A) below], inform him that he may apply to the High Court or to the Crown Court to be granted bail;
 - (b) in any other case, inform him that he may apply to the High Court for that purpose.

[^{F20}(6A) Where in criminal proceedings—

- (a) a magistrates' court remands a person in custody under any of the following provisions of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980—
 - (i) section 5 (adjournment of inquiry into offence);
 - (ii) section 10 (adjournment of trial);
 - (iii) section 18 (initial procedure on information against adult for offence triable either way); or
 - (iv) section 30 (remand for medical examination),
 after hearing full argument on an application for bail from him; and
- (b) either—
 - (i) it has not previously heard such argument on an application for bail from him in those proceedings; or
 - (ii) it has previously heard full argument from him on such an application but it is satisfied that there has been a change in his circumstances or that new considerations have been placed before it,

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

it shall be the duty of the court to issue a certificate in the prescribed form that they heard full argument on his application for bail before they refused the application.

- (6B) Where the court issues a certificate under subsection (6A) above in a case to which paragraph (b)(ii) of that subsection applies, it shall state in the certificate the nature of the change of circumstances or the new considerations which caused it to hear a further fully argued bail application.
- (6C) Where a court issues a certificate under subsection (6A) above it shall cause the person to whom it refuses bail to be given a copy of the certificate.]
- (7) Where a person has given security in pursuance of section 3(5) above and a court is satisfied that he failed to surrender to custody then, unless it appears that he had reasonable cause for his failure, the court may order the forfeiture of the security.
- (8) If a court orders the forfeiture of a security under subsection (7) above, the court may declare that the forfeiture extends to such amount less than the full value of the security as it thinks fit to order.
- [^{F21}(8A) An order under subsection (7) above shall, unless previously revoked, have effect at the end of twenty-one days beginning with the day on which it is made.
- (8B) A court which has ordered the forfeiture of a security under subsection (7) above may, if satisfied on an application made by or on behalf of the person who gave it that he did after all have reasonable cause for his failure to surrender to custody, by order remit the forfeiture or declare that it extends to such amount less than the full value of the security as it thinks fit to order.
- (8C) An application under subsection (8B) above may be made before or after the order for forfeiture has taken effect, but shall not be entertained unless the court is satisfied that the prosecution was given reasonable notice of the applicant's intention to make it.]
- (9) A security which has been ordered to be forfeited by a court under subsection (7) above shall, to the extent of the forfeiture—
- (a) if it consists of money, be accounted for and paid in the same manner as a fine imposed by that court would be;
 - (b) if it does not consist of money, be enforced by such magistrates' court as may be specified in the order.
- [^{F22}(9A) Where an order is made under subsection (8B) above after the order for forfeiture of the security in question has taken effect, any money which would have fallen to be repaid or paid over to the person who gave the security if the order under subsection (8B) had been made before the order for forfeiture took effect shall be repaid or paid over to him.]
- (10) In this section “prescribed” means, in relation to the decision of a court or an officer of a court, prescribed by Supreme Court rules, Courts-Martial Appeal rules, Crown Court rules or magistrates' courts rules, as the case requires or, in relation to a decision of a constable, prescribed by direction of the Secretary of State.

Textual Amendments

F19 Words inserted as provided by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 60(2)(3)

F20 S. 5(6A)–(6C) inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 60(2)(3)

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

F21 S. 5(8A)–(8C) inserted by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\), Sch. 12](#)

F22 S. 5(9A) inserted by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\), Sch. 12](#)

VALID FROM 10/04/1995

[^{F23}5A Supplementary provisions in cases of police bail.

(1) Section 5 of this Act applies, in relation to bail granted by a custody officer under Part IV of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in cases where the normal powers to impose conditions of bail are available to him, subject to the following modifications.

(2) For subsection (3) substitute the following—

(?) Where a custody officer, in relation to any person,—

(a) imposes conditions in granting bail in criminal proceedings, or

(b) varies any conditions of bail or imposes conditions in respect of bail in criminal proceedings,

the custody officer shall, with a view to enabling that person to consider requesting him or another custody officer, or making an application to a magistrates' court, to vary the conditions, give reasons for imposing or varying the conditions.”.

(3) For subsection (4) substitute the following—

(?) A custody officer who is by virtue of subsection (3) above required to give reasons for his decision shall include a note of those reasons in the custody record and shall give a copy of that note to the person in relation to whom the decision was taken.”.

(4) Subsections (5) and (6) shall be omitted.]

Textual Amendments

F23 S. 5A inserted (10.4.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 27\(4\)](#), Sch. 3 para.2; [S.I. 1995/721, art. 2](#), Sch.

VALID FROM 10/04/1995

[5B Reconsideration of decisions granting bail.

(1) Where a magistrates' court has granted bail in criminal proceedings in connection with an offence, or proceedings for an offence, to which this section applies or a constable has granted bail in criminal proceedings in connection with proceedings for such an offence, that court or the appropriate court in relation to the constable may, on application by the prosecutor for the decision to be reconsidered,—

(a) vary the conditions of bail,

(b) impose conditions in respect of bail which has been granted unconditionally, or

(c) withhold bail.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (2) The offences to which this section applies are offences triable on indictment and offences triable either way.
- (3) No application for the reconsideration of a decision under this section shall be made unless it is based on information which was not available to the court or constable when the decision was taken.
- (4) Whether or not the person to whom the application relates appears before it, the magistrates' court shall take the decision in accordance with section 4(1) (and Schedule 1) of this Act.
- (5) Where the decision of the court on a reconsideration under this section is to withhold bail from the person to whom it was originally granted the court shall—
 - (a) if that person is before the court, remand him in custody, and
 - (b) if that person is not before the court, order him to surrender himself forthwith into the custody of the court.
- (6) Where a person surrenders himself into the custody of the court in compliance with an order under subsection (5) above, the court shall remand him in custody.
- (7) A person who has been ordered to surrender to custody under subsection (5) above may be arrested without warrant by a constable if he fails without reasonable cause to surrender to custody in accordance with the order.
- (8) A person arrested in pursuance of subsection (7) above shall be brought as soon as practicable, and in any event within 24 hours after his arrest, before a justice of the peace for the petty sessions area in which he was arrested and the justice shall remand him in custody.

In reckoning for the purposes of this subsection any period of 24 hours, no account shall be taken of Christmas Day, Good Friday or any Sunday.
- (9) Magistrates' court rules shall include provision—
 - (a) requiring notice of an application under this section and of the grounds for it to be given to the person affected, including notice of the powers available to the court under it;
 - (b) for securing that any representations made by the person affected (whether in writing or orally) are considered by the court before making its decision; and
 - (c) designating the court which is the appropriate court in relation to the decision of any constable to grant bail.]

Extent Information

E3 S. 5B inserted (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s.30; S.I. 1995/721, art. 2, Sch.

6 Offence of absconding by person released on bail.

- (1) If a person who has been released on bail in criminal proceedings fails without reasonable cause to surrender to custody he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) If a person who—
 - (a) has been released on bail in criminal proceedings, and

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (b) having reasonable cause therefor, has failed to surrender to custody, fails to surrender to custody at the appointed place as soon after the appointed time as is reasonably practicable he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) It shall be for the accused to prove that he had reasonable cause for his failure to surrender to custody.
- (4) A failure to give to a person granted bail in criminal proceedings a copy of the record of the decision shall not constitute a reasonable cause for that person's failure to surrender to custody.
- (5) An offence under subsection (1) or (2) above shall be punishable either on summary conviction or as if it were a criminal contempt of court.
- (6) Where a magistrates' court convicts a person of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) above the court may, if it thinks—
- (a) that the circumstances of the offence are such that greater punishment should be inflicted for that offence than the court has power to inflict, or
 - (b) in a case where it commits that person for trial to the Crown Court for another offence, that it would be appropriate for him to be dealt with for the offence under subsection (1) or (2) above by the court before which he is tried for the other offence,
- commit him in custody or on bail to the Crown Court for sentence.
- (7) A person who is convicted summarily of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) above and is not committed to the Crown Court for sentence shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding [^{F24}level 5 on the standard scale] or to both and a person who is so committed for sentence or is dealt with as for such a contempt shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine or to both.
- (8) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) or (2) above a document purporting to be a copy of the part of the prescribed record which relates to the time and place appointed for the person specified in the record to surrender to custody and to be duly certified to be a true copy of that part of the record shall be evidence of the time and place appointed for that person to surrender to custody.
- (9) For the purposes of subsection (8) above—
- (a) "the prescribed record" means the record of the decision of the court, officer or constable made in pursuance of section 5(1) of this Act;
 - (b) the copy of the prescribed record is duly certified if it is certified by the appropriate officer of the court or, as the case may be, by the constable who took the decision or a constable designated for the purpose by the officer in charge of the police station from which the person to whom the record relates was released;
 - (c) "the appropriate officer" of the court is—
 - (i) in the case of a magistrates' court, the justices' clerk or such other officer as may be authorised by him to act for the purpose;
 - (ii) in the case of the Crown Court, such officer as may be designated for the purpose in accordance with arrangements made by the Lord Chancellor;

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (iii) in the case of the High Court, such officer as may be designated for the purpose in accordance with arrangements made by the Lord Chancellor;
- (iv) in the case of the Court of Appeal, the registrar of criminal appeals or such other officer as may be authorised by him to act for the purpose;
- (v) in the case of the Courts-Martial Appeal Court, the registrar or such other officer as may be authorised by him to act for the purpose.

Extent Information

E4 For extent of s. 1 see s. 13(3)

Textual Amendments

F24 Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 38, 46**, (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 289F, 289G** and (N.I.) by [S.I. 1984/703 \(N.I. 3\)](#), **arts. 5, 6**

7 Liability to arrest for absconding or breaking conditions of bail.

- (1) If a person who has been released on bail in criminal proceedings and is under a duty to surrender into the custody of a court fails to surrender to custody at the time appointed for him to do so the court may issue a warrant for his arrest.
- (2) If a person who has been released on bail in criminal proceedings absents himself from the court at any time after he has surrendered into the custody of the court and before the court is ready to begin or to resume the hearing of the proceedings, the court may issue a warrant for his arrest; but no warrant shall be issued under this subsection where that person is absent in accordance with leave given to him by or on behalf of the court.
- (3) A person who has been released on bail in criminal proceedings and is under a duty to surrender into the custody of a court may be arrested without warrant by a constable—
 - (a) if the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that that person is not likely to surrender to custody;
 - (b) if the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that that person is likely to break any of the conditions of his bail or has reasonable grounds for suspecting that that person has broken any of those conditions; or
 - (c) in a case where that person was released on bail with one or more surety or sureties, if a surety notifies a constable in writing that that person is unlikely to surrender to custody and that for that reason the surety wishes to be relieved of his obligations as a surety.
- (4) a person arrested in pursuance of subsection (3) above—
 - (a) shall, except where he was arrested within 24 hours of the time appointed for him to surrender to custody, be brought as soon as practicable and in any event within 24 hours after his arrest before a justice of the peace for the petty sessions area in which he was arrested; and
 - (b) in the said excepted case shall be brought before the court at which he was to have surrendered to custody.

[^{F25}In reckoning for the purposes of this subsection any period of 24 hours, no account shall be taken of Christmas Day, Good Friday or any Sunday.]

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (5) A justice of the peace before whom a person is brought under subsection (4) above may, subject to subsection (6) below, if of the opinion that that person—
- (a) is not likely to surrender to custody, or
 - (b) has broken or is likely to break any condition of his bail,
- remand him in custody or commit him to custody, as the case may require, or alternatively, grant him bail subject to the same or to different conditions, but if not of that opinion shall grant him bail subject to the same conditions (if any) as were originally imposed.
- (6) Where the person so brought before the justice is a child or young person and the justice does not grant him bail, subsection (5) above shall have effect subject to the provisions of section 23 of the ^{M7}Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (remands to the care of local authorities).

Textual Amendments

F25 Words inserted by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\), Sch. 12](#)

Marginal Citations

M7 1969 c. 54.

8 Bail with sureties.

- (1) This section applies where a person is granted bail in criminal proceedings on condition that he provides one or more surety or sureties for the purpose of securing that he surrenders to custody.
- (2) In considering the suitability for that purpose of a proposed surety, regard may be had (amongst other things) to—
- (a) the surety's financial resources;
 - (b) his character and any previous convictions of his; and
 - (c) his proximity (whether in point of kinship, place of residence or otherwise) to the person for whom he is to be surety.
- (3) Where a court grants a person bail in criminal proceedings on such a condition but is unable to release him because no surety or no suitable surety is available, the court shall fix the amount in which the surety is to be bound and subsections (4) and (5) below, or in a case where the proposed surety resides in Scotland subsection (6) below, shall apply for the purpose of enabling the recognizance of the surety to be entered into subsequently.
- (4) Where this subsection applies the recognizance of the surety may be entered into before such of the following persons or descriptions of persons as the court may by order specify or, if it makes no such order, before any of the following persons, that is to say—
- (a) where the decision is taken by a magistrates' court, before a justice of the peace, a justices' clerk or a police officer who either is of the rank of inspector or above or is in charge of a police station or, if magistrates' courts rules so provide, by a person of such other description as is specified in the rules;

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (b) where the decision is taken by the Crown Court, before any of the persons specified in paragraph (a) above or, if Crown Court rules so provide, by a person of such other description as is specified in the rules;
 - (c) where the decision is taken by the High Court or the Court of Appeal, before any of the persons specified in paragraph (a) above or, if Supreme Court rules so provide, by a person of such other description as is specified in the rules;
 - (d) where the decision is taken by the Courts-Martial Appeal Court, before any of the persons specified in paragraph (a) above or, if Courts-Martial Appeal rules so provide, by a person of such other description as is specified in the rules;
- and Supreme Court rules, Crown Court rules, Courts-Martial Appeal rules or magistrates' courts rules may also prescribe the manner in which a recognizance which is to be entered into before such a person is to be entered into and the persons by whom and the manner in which the recognizance may be enforced.
- (5) Where a surety seeks to enter into his recognizance before any person in accordance with subsection (4) above but that person declines to take his recognizance because he is not satisfied of the surety's suitability, the surety may apply to—
 - (a) the court which fixed the amount of the recognizance in which the surety was to be bound, or
 - (b) a magistrates' court for the petty sessions area in which he resides,
 for that court to take his recognizance and that court shall, if satisfied of his suitability, take his recognizance.
 - (6) Where this subsection applies, the court, if satisfied of the suitability of the proposed surety, may direct that arrangements be made for the recognizance of the surety to be entered into in Scotland before any constable, within the meaning of the ^{M8}Police (Scotland) Act 1967, having charge at any police office or station in like manner as the recognizance would be entered into in England or Wales.
 - (7) Where, in pursuance of subsection (4) or (6) above, a recognizance is entered into otherwise than before the court that fixed the amount of the recognizance, the same consequences shall follow as if it had been entered into before that court.

Marginal Citations

M8 1967 c. 77.

Miscellaneous

9 Offence of agreeing to indemnify sureties in criminal proceedings.

- (1) If a person agrees with another to indemnify that other against any liability which that other may incur as a surety to secure the surrender to custody of a person accused or convicted of or under arrest for an offence, he and that other person shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) An offence under subsection (1) above is committed whether the agreement is made before or after the person to be indemnified becomes a surety and whether or not he becomes a surety and whether the agreement contemplates compensation in money or in money's worth.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (3) Where a magistrates’ court convicts a person of an offence under subsection (1) above the court may, if it thinks—
 - (a) that the circumstances of the offence are such that greater punishment should be inflicted for that offence than the court has power to inflict, or
 - (b) in a case where it commits that person for trial to the Crown Court for another offence, that it would be appropriate for him to be dealt with for the offence under subsection (1) above by the court before which he is tried for the other offence,
 commit him in custody or on bail to the Crown Court for sentence.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) above shall be liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding £400 or to both; or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment or if sentenced by the Crown Court on committal for sentence under subsection (3) above, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine or to both.
- (5) No proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) above shall be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

.....

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
 C5 S. 9(5) explained by [Criminal Jurisdiction Act 1975 \(c. 59\), s. 12](#)

10 F26

.....

Textual Amendments
 F26 S. 10 repealed by [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45\), Sch. 13](#)

11 F27

.....

Textual Amendments
 F27 S. 11 repealed by [Legal Aid Act 1988 \(c. 34, SIF 77:1\), s. 45, Sch. 6](#)

12 Amendments, repeals and transitional provisions.

- (1) Schedule 2 to this Act (which contains consequential and minor amendments of enactments) shall have effect.
- (2) The enactments specified in Schedule 3 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.
- (3) The transitional provisions contained in Schedule 4 to this Act shall have effect.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** The text of s. 12(1)(2) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

13 Short title, commencement, application and extent.

- (1) This act may be cited as the Bail Act 1976.
- (2) This Act (except this section) shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order in a statutory instrument appoint.
- (3) Section 1 of this Act applies to bail grantable by the Courts-Martial Appeal Court when sitting outside England and Wales and accordingly section 6 of this Act applies to a failure outside England and Wales by a person granted bail by that Court to surrender to custody.
- (4) Except as provided by subsection (3) above and with the exception of so much of section 8 as relates to entering into recognizances in Scotland and paragraphs 31 and 46 of Schedule 2 to this Act, this Act does not extend beyond England and Wales.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** 17.4.1978 appointed under s. 13(2) by [S.I. 1978/132](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 4.

PERSONS ENTITLED TO BAIL: SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

PART I

DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OR CONVICTED OF IMPRISONABLE OFFENCES

Defendants to whom Part I applies

- 1 Where the offence or one of the offences of which the defendant is accused or convicted in the proceedings is punishable with imprisonment the following provisions of this Part of this Schedule apply.

Exceptions to right to bail

- 2 The defendant need not be granted bail if the court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for believing that the defendant, if released on bail (whether subject to conditions or not) would—
- (a) fail to surrender to custody, or
 - (b) commit an offence while on bail, or
 - (c) interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice, whether in relation to himself or any other person.

VALID FROM 10/04/1995

- [^{F28}2A The defendant need not be granted bail if—
- (a) the offence is an indictable offence or an offence triable either way; and
 - (b) it appears to the court that he was on bail in criminal proceedings on the date of the offence.]

Textual Amendments

F28 Sch. 1 Pt. I para. 2A inserted (10.4.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 26(a); S.I. 1995/721, art. 2, Sch.

- 3 The defendant need not be granted bail if the court is satisfied that the defendant should be kept in custody for his own protection or, if he is a child or young person, for his own welfare.
- 4 The defendant need not be granted bail if he is in custody in pursuance of the sentence of a court or of any authority acting under any of the Services Acts.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- 5 The defendant need not be granted bail where the court is satisfied that it has not been practicable to obtain sufficient information for the purpose of taking the decisions required by this Part of this Schedule for want of time since the institution of the proceedings against him.
- 6 The defendant need not be granted bail if, having been released on bail in or in connection with the proceedings for the offence, he has been arrested in pursuance of section 7 of this Act.

Exception applicable only to defendant whose case is adjourned for inquiries or a report

- 7 Where his case is adjourned for inquiries or a report, the defendant need not be granted bail if it appears to the court that it would be impracticable to complete the inquiries or make the report without keeping the defendant in custody.

Restriction of conditions of bail

- 8 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3) below, where the defendant is granted bail, no conditions shall be imposed under subsections (4) to (7) ^{F29}(except subsection (6) (d)) of section 3 of this Act unless it appears to the court that it is necessary to do so for the purpose of preventing the occurrence of any of the events mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Part of this Schedule ^{F30} or, in the case of a condition under subsection (6)(d) of that section, that it is necessary to impose it to enable inquiries or a report to be made into the defendant's physical or mental condition ^{F31} or, where the condition is that the defendant reside in a bail hostel or probation hostel, that it is necessary to impose it to assess his suitability for being dealt with for the offence in a way which would involve a period of residence in a probation hostel.]]
- ^{F32}(1A) No condition shall be imposed under section 3(6)(d) of this Act unless it appears to be necessary to do so for the purpose of enabling inquiries or a report to be made.]
- (2) ^{F33}Sub-paragraphs (1) and (1A) above also apply] on any application to the court to vary the conditions of bail or to impose conditions in respect of bail which has been granted unconditionally.
- (3) The restriction imposed by ^{F34}sub-paragraph (1A)]above shall not ^{F35}apply to the conditions required to be imposed under section 3(6A) of this Act or] operate to override the direction in ^{F36}section 30(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980] to a magistrates' court to impose conditions of bail under section 3(6)(d) of this Act of the description specified in ^{F36}the said section 30(2)] in the circumstances so specified.

Textual Amendments

- F29** Words in Sch. 1 para. 8 inserted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11, para. 22(2); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.
- F30** Words in Sch. 1 para. 8 repealed (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), ss. 100, 101(2), Sch. 11, para. 22(2), Sch. 13; S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.
- F31** Words added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), s. 131(2), Sch. 8 para. 16
- F32** Sch. 1 para. 8(1A) inserted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11 para. 22(3); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.
- F33** Words in Sch. 1 para. 8(2) substituted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11 para. 22(4); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- F34** Words in Sch. 1 para. 8(3) substituted (1.10.1992) by Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 100, Sch. 11 para. 22(5); S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch.2.
- F35** Words inserted by Mental Health (Amendment) Act 1982 (c. 51, SIF 85), s. 34(4)
- F36** Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 7 para. 146

Decisions under paragraph 2

- 9 In taking the decisions required by paragraph 2 of this Part of this Schedule, the court shall have regard to such of the following considerations as appear to it to be relevant, that is to say—
- (a) the nature and seriousness of the offence or default (and the probable method of dealing with the defendant for it),
 - (b) the character, antecedents, associations and community ties of the defendant,
 - (c) the defendant's record as respects the fulfilment of his obligations under previous grants of bail in criminal proceedings,
 - (d) except in the case of a defendant whose case is adjourned for inquiries or a report, the strength of the evidence of his having committed the offence or having defaulted,
- as well as to any others which appear to be relevant.

[^{F37}9A (1) If—

- (a) the defendant is charged with an offence to which this paragraph applies; and
- (b) representations are made as to any of the matters mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Part of this Schedule; and
- (c) the court decides to grant him bail,

the court shall state the reasons for its decision and shall cause those reasons to be included in the record of the proceedings.

(2) The offences to which this paragraph applies are—

- (a) murder;
- (b) manslaughter;
- (c) rape;
- (d) attempted murder; and
- (e) attempted rape.]

Textual Amendments

- F37** Sch. 1 paras. 9A, 9B inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), ss. 153, 155(2), Sch. 8 para. 16

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

^{F38} Cases under section 128A of Magistrates' Courts Act 1980

Textual Amendments

F38 Sch. 1 paras. 9A, 9B inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), ss. 153, 155(2), Sch. 8 para. 16

- 9B Where the court is considering exercising the power conferred by section 128A of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (power to remand in custody for more than 8 clear days), it shall have regard to the total length of time which the accused would spend in custody if it were to exercise the power.]

PART II

DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OR CONVICTED OF NON-IMPRISONABLE OFFENCES

Defendants to whom Part II applies

- 1 Where the offence or every offence of which the defendant is accused or convicted in the proceedings is one which is not punishable with imprisonment the following provisions of this Part of this Schedule apply.

Exceptions to right to bail

- 2 The defendant need not be granted bail if—
- (a) it appears to the court that, having been previously granted bail in criminal proceedings, he has failed to surrender to custody in accordance with his obligations under the grant of bail; and
 - (b) the court believes, in view of that failure, that the defendant, if released on bail (whether subject to conditions or not) would fail to surrender to custody.
- 3 The defendant need not be granted bail if the court is satisfied that the defendant should be kept in custody for his own protection or, if he is a child or young person, for his own welfare.
- 4 The defendant need not be granted bail if he is in custody in pursuance of the sentence of a court or of any authority acting under any of the Services Acts.
- 5 The defendant need not be granted bail if, having been released on bail in or in connection with the proceedings for the offence, he has been arrested in pursuance of section 7 of this Act.

^{F39} PART IIA

DECISIONS WHERE BAIL REFUSED ON PREVIOUS HEARING

Textual Amendments

F39 Sch. 1 Pt. IIA inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (c. 33, SIF 39:1), ss. 153, 155(2), Sch. 8 para. 16

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- 1 If the court decides not to grant the defendant bail, it is the court’s duty to consider, at each subsequent hearing while the defendant is a person to whom section 4 above applies and remains in custody, whether he ought to be granted bail.
- 2 At the first hearing after that at which the court decided not to grant the defendant bail he may support an application for bail with any argument as to fact or law that he desires (whether or not he has advanced that argument previously).
- 3 At subsequent hearings the court need not hear arguments as to fact or law which it has heard previously.]

PART III

INTERPRETATION

- 1 For the purposes of this Schedule the question whether an offence is one which is punishable with imprisonment shall be determined without regard to any enactment prohibiting or restricting the imprisonment of young offenders or first offenders.
- 3 References in this Schedule to a defendant’s being kept in custody or being in custody include (where the defendant is a child or young person) references to his being kept or being in the care of a local authority in pursuance of a warrant of commitment under section 23(1) of the ^{M9}Children and Young Persons Act 1969.

Marginal Citations

M9 1969 c. 54.

- 4 In this Schedule—
 - “court”, in the expression “sentence of a court”, includes a service court as defined in section 12(1) of the ^{M10}Visiting Forces Act 1952 and “sentence”, in that expression, shall be construed in accordance with that definition;
 - “default”, in relation to the defendant, means the default for which he is to be dealt with under section 6 or section 16 of the ^{M11}Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973;
 - “the Services Acts” means the ^{M12}Army Act 1955, the ^{M13}Air Force Act 1955 and the ^{M14}Naval Discipline Act 1957.

Marginal Citations

M10 1952 c. 67.

M11 1973 c. 62.

M12 1955 c. 18.

M13 1955 c. 19.

M14 1957 c. 53.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

SCHEDULE 2

Section 12.

CONSEQUENTIAL AND OTHER AMENDMENTS OF ACTS

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C8 The text of Schedule 2 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

M15 Habeas Corpus Act 1679

Marginal Citations

M15 1679 c. 2.

1 In section 2 of the Habeas Corpus Act 1679 (bail for persons released from custody under habeas corpus while awaiting trial) for the words from “discharge the said prisoner” to “his or their appearance in” there shall be substituted the words “grant bail in accordance with the Bail Act 1976 to the said prisoner subject to a duty to appear before” and for the words “and the said recognizance or recognizances” there shall be substituted the words “together with the recognizance of any surety for him”.

2 **F40**

Textual Amendments

F40 Sch. 2 para. 2 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), Sch. 1

M16 Criminal Law Amendment Act 1867

Marginal Citations

M16 1867 c. 35.

3 In section 10 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1867 (production from prison without habeas corpus where recognizances for appearance have been taken) for the words from the beginning to “such court” there shall be substituted the words “Where a person who has been granted bail in criminal proceedings is, while awaiting for trial for the offence before the Crown Court, in prison”.

4 **F41**

Textual Amendments

F41 Sch. 2 para. 4 repealed by Criminal Law Act 1977 (c. 45), Sch. 13

5 **F42**

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

Textual Amendments

F42 Sch. 2 para. 5 repealed by Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30, SIF 115:1), Sch. 3

6 **F43**

Textual Amendments

F43 Sch. 2 para. 6 repealed by Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (c. 23, SIF 39:1), s. 31(6), Sch. 2

^{M17}Criminal Justice Administration Act 1914

Marginal Citations

M17 1914 c. 58.

7 In section 19 of the Criminal Justice Administration Act 1914 (continuous bail otherwise than in proceedings in magistrates' courts), for the words "the recognizance may be conditioned" there shall be substituted the words "the court may, where it remands him on bail in criminal proceedings (within the meaning of the Bail Act 1976) direct him to appear or, in any other case, direct that his recognizance be conditioned".

^{M18}Indictments Act 1915

Marginal Citations

M18 1915 c. 90

8 In section 5(5)(c) of the Indictment Act 1915 (bail where separate trial or postponed trial ordered) for the words "admitting the accused person to bail" there shall be substituted the words "granting the accused person bail".

^{M19}Children and Young Persons Act 1933

Marginal Citations

M19 1933 c. 12.

9 In section 13(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (police bail for person arrested for serious offence against juvenile) for the words from "on his entering" to the end there shall be substituted the words "on bail in accordance with the Bail Act 1976 subject to a duty to appear at the hearing of the charge".

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

M20 Public Order Act 1936

Marginal Citations

M20 1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6. c. 6.

- 10 In section 1(2) of the Public Order Act 1936 (right to release on bail in certain circumstances of persons charged with wearing uniforms in public) for the words “dischrged from custody on entering into a recognizance” there shall be substituted the words “realesed on bail”.

M21 Criminal Justice Act 1948

Marginal Citations

M21 1948 c. 58.

- 11 (1) Section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1948 (powers of High Court to grant bail on appeals against and other proceedings questioning convictions or sentences) shall be amended as follows.
 - (2) In subsection (1), in paragraph (b), for the words “release on bail” there shall be substituted the words “grant bail to”.
 - (3) In subsection (1), for paragraph (d), there shall be substituted the following.
 - “(d) the High Court may grant bail to a person who has been convicted or sentenced by a magistrates’ court and has applied to the High Court for an order of certiorari to remove the proceedings into the High Court or has applied to the High Court for leave to make such an application ;”.
 - (4) After subsection (1) there shall be inserted the following subsection—
 - “(1A) Where the court grants bail to a person under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) above—
 - (a) the time at which he is to appear in the event of the conviction or sentence not being quashed by the High Court shall be such time within ten days after the judgement of the High Court has been given as may be specified by the High Court ; and
 - (b) the place at which he is to appear in that event shall be a magistrates’ court acting for the same petty sessions area as the court which convicted or sentenced him.”
 - (5) In subsection (6), for the words “admitted to” wherever occurring there shall be substituted the words “released on”.

12 F44

Textual Amendments

F44 Sch. 2 para. 12 repealed by Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2, SIF 42), Sch. 9 Pt. II

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

13 F45

Textual Amendments

F45 Sch. 2 para. 13 repealed by Animal Health Act 1981 (c. 22, SIF 4:4), Sch. 7

14—29. F46

Textual Amendments

F46 Sch. 2 paras. 14—29 repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 9

M22 Administration of Justice Act 1960

Marginal Citations

M22 1960 c. 65.

30 In section 4(2) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 (power to grant bail in appeals from Divisional Courts), after the words “in relation to” there shall be inserted the words “the time and the place of appearance appointed and” and, after the words “entered into”, there shall be inserted the words “by any surety”.

31 In section 6(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 (computation of sentence where bail granted in appeals to House of Lords) for the words “admitted to” there shall be substituted the words “granted” and for the words “at large after being so admitted” there shall be substituted the words “released on bail”.

32 F47

Textual Amendments

F47 Sch. 2 para. 32 repealed by Supreme Court Act 1981 (c. 54, SIF 37), Sch. 7

M23 Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965

Marginal Citations

M23 1965 c. 45.

33 (1) Section 5 of the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965 shall be amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), for paragraph (b) and the words following that paragraph there shall be substituted the following—

“(b) remand him on bail in accordance with the Bail Act 1976, that is to say, direct him to surrender himself to the custody of the officer in charge of a specified police station at the time to be appointed by that officer and notified in writing to the person so remanded ;

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

and where his release on bail is conditional on his providing one or more surety or sureties and, in accordance with section 8(3) of that Act, the court fixes the amount in which the surety is to be bound with a view to his entering into his recognizance subsequently in accordance with subsections (4) and (5) or (6) of that section the court shall in the meantime commit him to the custody of a constable.”

- (3) In subsection (2), there shall be substituted, for the words from the beginning to “so served” the words “The time to be appointed for the purposes of subsection (1) above by the officer and notified to the person so remanded”.
- (4) In subsection (3), for the words from “release” to the end there shall be substituted the words “grant him bail in accordance with the Bail Act 1976 subject to a duty to surrender himself into the custody of the officer in charge of the station specified under subsection (1) above at the time appointed by that officer and notified in writing to him ; and subsection (2) above shall apply to the appointment of a time for the purposes of this subsection as it applies to the appointment of a time for the purposes of subsection (1) above.”
- (5) In subsection (4), for the words “in the recognizance” there shall be substituted the words “under subsection (1) above” and for the words “release him” there shall be substituted the words “grant him bail”.

M24 Criminal Justice Act 1967

Marginal Citations

M24 1967 c. 80.

34 Section 18 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (restrictions on refusal of bail by magistrates’ courts in criminal proceedings) shall be omitted.

35 F48

Textual Amendments

F48 Sch. 2 para. 35 repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 9

36 Section 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (power to impose special conditions of bail) shall be omitted.

37 (1) Section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (extension of power of High Court to grant, or vary conditions of, bail) shall be amended as follows.

(2) For subsections (1) and (2) there shall be substituted the following—

“(1) Where an inferior court withholds bail in criminal proceedings or imposes conditions in granting bail in criminal proceedings, the High Court may grant bail or vary the conditions.

(2) Where the High Court grants a person bail under this section it may direct him to appear at a time and place which the inferior court may have directed and the recognizance of any surety shall be conditioned accordingly.”

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (3) In subsection (3) for the words “admitted to” wherever occurring there shall be substituted the word “granted”.
- (4) At the end of subsection (4) there shall be added the words “and “bail in criminal proceedings” and “vary” have the same meaning as they have in the Bail Act 1976.”

M25 Criminal Appeal Act 1968

Marginal Citations

M25 1968 c. 19.

38 In section 8(2) and (3) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (bail etc on retrial), in paragraph (a), for the words “admission to” there shall be substituted the words “released on”.

^{F49}39

Textual Amendments

F49 Sch. 2 para. 39 repealed (1.1.1992) by Criminal Procedure (Insanity and Unfitness to Plead) Act 1991 (c. 25, SIF 39:1), s. 8(3), **Sch. 4**; S.I. 1991/2488, **art.2**

40—42. ^{F50}

Textual Amendments

F50 Sch. 2 paras. 40–42 repealed by Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), **Sch. 16**

43 In section 36 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (bail on appeal from Court of Appeal) for the words “admit him to” there shall be substituted the words “grant him”.

44 In section 43(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (computation of sentence where bail granted on appeal to House of Lords) for the words “admitted to” there shall be substituted the word “granted” and for the words “at large after being so admitted” there shall be substituted the words “released on bail”.

45 In Schedule 2 to the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 (provisions about retrial) in paragraph 2(3)(b) for the words “at large after being admitted to bail” there shall be substituted the words “released on bail”.

M26 Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968

Marginal Citations

M26 1968 c. 20.

46 In section 45(2) of the Courts-Martial (Appeals) Act 1968 (computation of sentence where bail granted on appeal to House of Lords) for the words “admitted to” there shall be substituted the word “granted” and for the words “at large after being so admitted” there shall be substituted the words “released on bail”.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.
Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

M27 Children and Young Persons Act 1969

Marginal Citations
M27 1969 c. 54.

47 In section 29 of the Children and Young Perons Act 1969 (release or further detention of arrested child or young person), for subsection (2), there shall be substituted the following—

“(2) Where a parent or guardian enters into a recognizance to secure that the child or young person appears at the hearing of the charge, the recognizance may, if the said officer thinks fit, be conditioned for the attendance of the parent or guardian at the hearing in addition to the person arrested.”and subsection (6) shall be omitted.

48 F51

Textual Amendments
F51 Sch. 2 para. 48 repealed by Supreme Court Act 1981 (c. 54, SIF 37), Sch. 7

SCHEDULE 3

Section 12.

REPEALS

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C9 The text of Schedule 3 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
31 Chas. 2. c. 2.	The Habeas Corpus Act 1679	In section 5, the words “by recognizance”.
32 Geo. 3. c. 56.	The Servants’ Characters Act 1792	In section 6, the words “and enter into recognizance”.
2 & 3 Vict. c. 47.	The Metropolitan Police Act 1839	In section 69, the words from “to take bail” to the end.
2 & 3 Vict. c. 71.	The Metropolitan Police Courts Act 1839	Section 36.
52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.	The Interpretation Act 1889.	In section 27, the words from “and shall include” to the end.
11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 58.	The Criminal Justice Act 1948.	In section 37, subsections (2) and (3) and, in subsection (4), paragraph (a).

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

15 & 16 Geo 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 55.	The Magistrates' Courts Act 1952.	In section 16(2), the words "to enter into a recognizance or". In section 26, subsection (4). Section 38(3). Section 97.
8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 65.	The Administration of Justice Act 1960.	In section 4(3), the words "the applicant or".
1965 c. 45.	The Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965.	In section 5(4) the words "in breach of a recognizance taken from him under this section" and "without prejudice to the enforcement of the recognizance".
1967 c. 80.	The Criminal Justice Act 1967.	Sections 18 and 21. In section 22(3), the reference to subsection (3) of section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1948. Section 23.
1969 c. 54.	The Children and Young Persons Act 1969.	In section 29, subsection (6).
1971 c. 23.	The Courts Act 1971.	In section 13, subsection (3).
1972 c. 71.	The Criminal Justice Act 1972.	Section 43.

SCHEDULE 4

Section 12.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 1 (1) Without prejudice to section 38(2) of the ^{M28}Interpretation Act 1889 (effect of repeals), nothing in the amendments or repeals effected by section 12 of and Schedules 2 and 3 to this Act shall affect the application of the enactments amended or repealed thereby in relation to recognizances entered into or security given by persons granted bail before the appointed day and the recognizances of any sureties for them.
- (2) Nothing in those amendments or repeals shall, in particular, affect the doing of any of the following things after the appointed day, that is to say—
- the enforcement of the recognizance of such a person in the event of a breach of recognizance after the appointed day;
 - the exercise of any power to issue and the execution of a warrant for the arrest of such a person for breach of his recognizance after the appointed day;

Status: Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)

- (c) the exercise of any power to enlarge the recognizance of such a person and of any surety for him to a later time in the absence of that person and his surety (if any);
 - (d) the exercise of any power to vary any conditions on which a person was granted bail before the appointed day or to reduce the amount in which he or any surety is to be bound or to discharge or dispense with any of the sureties;
- and no application shall be made under section 3(8) of this Act for the variation of conditions of bail so granted or for the imposition of conditions in respect of bail so granted.

Marginal Citations

M28 1889 c. 63.

- 2 Where, before the appointed day, a court has—
- (a) given a direction that the recognizance of a person to whom it has granted bail may be entered into before another court or any person, or
 - (b) endorsed a warrant for the arrest of a person with a direction that he be released on his entering into such a recognizance as is specified in the endorsement,
- the recognizance may be entered into and taken after the appointed day in accordance with the direction and paragraph 1 above shall apply to such a recognizance as it applies to a recognizance entered into before the appointed day.
- 3 Where a person has been granted bail before the appointed day and his recognizance (and that of any surety for him) is conditioned for his appearance before a court from time to time, then, on his first appearance before a court after the appointed day—
- (a) the recognizance of that person shall be discharged; and
 - (b) the recognizance of any surety for him shall, as directed by the court, either be discharged or continue in force.
- 4 In this Schedule “the appointed day” means the day appointed under section 13(2) of this Act for it to come into force.

Status:

Point in time view as at 03/02/1995. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation:

Bail Act 1976 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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.