



# Supreme Court Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 54

### PART III

#### PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

##### THE CROWN COURT

##### *Distribution of business*

#### **75 Allocation of cases according to composition of court, etc.**

- (1) The cases or classes of cases in the Crown Court suitable for allocation respectively to a judge of the High Court and to a Circuit judge or Recorder, and all other matters relating to the distribution of Crown Court business, shall be determined in accordance with directions given by or on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to section 74(1), the cases or classes of cases in the Crown Court suitable for allocation to a court comprising justices of the peace (including those by way of trial on indictment which are suitable for allocation to such a court) shall be determined in accordance with directions given by or on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor.

#### **76 Committal for trial: alteration of place of trial**

- (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act about the distribution of Crown Court business, the Crown Court may give directions, or further directions, altering the place of any trial on indictment, whether by varying the decision of a magistrates' court under section 7 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 or a previous decision of the Crown Court.
- (2) Directions under subsection (1) may be given on behalf of the Crown Court by an officer of the court.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

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- (3) The defendant or the prosecutor, if dissatisfied with the place of trial as fixed by the magistrates' court, or by the Crown Court, may apply to the Crown Court for a direction, or further direction, varying the place of trial; and the court shall take the matter into consideration and may comply with or refuse the application, or give a direction not in compliance with the application, as the court thinks fit.
- (4) An application under subsection (3) shall be heard in open court by a judge of the High Court.

**77 Committal for trial: date of trial**

- (1) Crown Court Rules shall prescribe the minimum and the maximum period which may elapse between a person's committal for trial and the beginning of the trial; and such rules may make different provision for different places of trial and for other different circumstances.
- (2) The trial of a person committed by a magistrates' court—
  - (a) shall not begin until the prescribed minimum period has expired except with his consent and the consent of the prosecutor; and
  - (b) shall not begin later than the expiry of the prescribed maximum period unless a judge of the Crown Court otherwise orders.
- (3) For the purposes of this section the prescribed minimum and maximum periods shall begin with the date of committal for trial and the trial shall be taken to begin when the defendant is arraigned.