



Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

1984 CHAPTER 60

PART VIII

EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS—GENERAL

Convictions and acquittals

73 Proof of convictions and acquittals.

(1) Where in any proceedings the fact that a person has in the United Kingdom been convicted or acquitted of an offence otherwise than by a Service court is admissible in evidence, it may be proved by producing a certificate of conviction or, as the case may be, of acquittal relating to that offence, and proving that the person named in the certificate as having been convicted or acquitted of the offence is the person whose conviction or acquittal of the offence is to be proved.

(2) For the purposes of this section a certificate of conviction or of acquittal—

- (a) shall, as regards a conviction or acquittal on indictment, consist of a certificate, signed by the [^{F1}proper officer] of the court where the conviction or acquittal took place, giving the substance and effect (omitting the formal parts) of the indictment and of the conviction or acquittal; and
- (b) shall, as regards a conviction or acquittal on a summary trial, consist of a copy of the conviction or of the dismissal of the information, signed by the [^{F1}proper officer] of the court where the conviction or acquittal took place or by the [^{F1}proper officer] of the court, if any, to which a memorandum of the conviction or acquittal was sent;

and a document purporting to be a duly signed certificate of conviction or acquittal under this section shall be taken to be such a certificate unless the contrary is proved.

[^{F2}(3) In subsection (2) above “proper officer” means—

- (a) in relation to a magistrates’ court in England and Wales, the justices’ chief executive for the court; and

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2001. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 73 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 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. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) in relation to any other court, the clerk of the court, his deputy or any other person having custody of the court record.]
- (4) The method of proving a conviction or acquittal authorised by this section shall be in addition to and not to the exclusion of any other authorised manner of proving a conviction or acquittal.

Extent Information

E1 S. 73 extends to England and Wales only with exceptions as regards courts martial, see s. 120(1)(6)-(8)

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 73(2)(a)(b) substituted (1.4.2001) by 1999 c. 22, s. 90, **Sch. 13 para. 128(1)(2)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 2001/916, **art. 2**

F2 S. 73(3) substituted (1.4.2001) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 90, **Sch. 13 para. 128(1)(3)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 2001/916, **art. 2**

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