



Criminal Justice Act 1991

1991 CHAPTER 53

PART I

POWERS OF COURTS TO DEAL WITH OFFENDERS

Financial penalties: supplemental

24 Recovery of fines etc. by deductions from income support.

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that where a fine has been imposed on an offender by a magistrates' court, or a sum is required to be paid by a compensation order which has been made against an offender by such a court, and (in either case) the offender is entitled to income support [^{F1}, a jobseeker's allowance or state pension credit]
- (a) the court may apply to the Secretary of State asking him to deduct sums from any amounts payable to the offender by way of [^{F2}that benefit], in order to secure the payment of any sum which is or forms part of the fine or compensation; and
 - (b) the Secretary of State may deduct sums from any such amounts and pay them to the court towards satisfaction of any such sum.
- (2) The regulations may include—
- (a) provision that, before making an application, the court shall make an enquiry as to the offender's means;
 - [^{F3}(aa) provision that the court may require the offender to provide prescribed information in connection with an application;]
 - (b) provision allowing or requiring adjudication as regards an application, and provision as to [^{F4}appeals to appeal tribunals constituted under Chapter I of Part I of the Social Security Act 1998 and decisions under section 9 or 10 of that Act];
 - (c) provision as to the circumstances and manner in which and the times at which sums are to be deducted and paid;

Status: Point in time view as at 05/04/2004. This version of this provision has been superseded.

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- (d) provision as to the calculation of such sums (which may include provision to secure that amounts payable to the offender by way of income support [^{F5}, a jobseeker’s allowance or state pension credit] do not fall below prescribed figures);
 - (e) provision as to the circumstances in which the Secretary of State is to cease making deductions;
 - (f) provision requiring the Secretary of State to notify the offender, in a prescribed manner and at any prescribed time, of the total amount of sums deducted up to the time of notification; and
 - (g) provision that, where the whole amount to which the application relates has been paid, the court shall give notice of that fact to the Secretary of State.
- [^{F6}(2A) An offender who fails to provide information required by the court by virtue of subsection (2)(aa) commits an offence.
- (2B) An offender commits an offence if, in providing information required by the court by virtue of that subsection, he—
- (a) makes a statement which he knows to be false in a material particular,
 - (b) recklessly provides a statement which is false in a material particular, or
 - (c) knowingly fails to disclose any material fact.
- (2C) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2A) or (2B) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.]
- (3) In subsection (1) above—
- (a) the reference to a fine having been imposed by a magistrates’ court includes a reference to a fine being treated, by virtue of [^{F7}section 140 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000], as having been so imposed; and
 - (b) the reference to a sum being required to be paid by a compensation order which has been made by a magistrates’ court includes a reference to a sum which is required to be paid by such an order being treated, by virtue of section 41 of the ^{M1}Administration of Justice Act 1970, as having been adjudged to be paid on conviction by such a court.
- [^{F8}(c) the reference in paragraph (a) to “the court” includes a reference to a court to which the function in that paragraph has been transferred by virtue of a transfer of fine order under section 89(1) or (3) or 90(1)(a) of the 1980 Act (power of magistrates’ court to make transfer of fine order) or under section [^{F9}section 222(1)(a) or (b) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995] (analogous provision as respects Scotland) and a reference to a court to which that function has been remitted by virtue of section 196(2) of the said Act of 1975 (enforcement of fine imposed by High Court of Justiciary).]
- (4) In this section—
- “fine” includes—
- (a) a penalty imposed under [^{F10}section 29 or 37 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994] or section 102(3)(aa) of the ^{M2}Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 (penalties imposed for certain offences in relation to vehicle excise licences);
 - (b) an amount ordered to be paid, in addition to any penalty so imposed, under [^{F10}section 30, 36 or 38 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994] (liability to additional duty);

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- (c) an amount ordered to be paid by way of costs which is, by virtue of section 41 of the ^{M3}Administration of Justice Act 1970, treated as having been adjudged to be paid on a conviction by a magistrates' court;

“income support” means income support within the meaning of the ^{M4}Social Security Act 1986, either alone or together with any ^{F11}. . . [^{F12} incapacity] benefit, [^{F13} or retirement pension] which is paid by means of the same instrument of payment;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State.

- (5) In the application of this section to Scotland—

- (a) references in subsections (1) and (2) above to a magistrates' court shall be construed as references to a court; and
- (b) in subsection (3) above, for paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—

“(a) the reference to a fine having been imposed by a court includes a reference to a fine being treated, by virtue of [^{F14} section 211(4) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995], as having been so imposed; and

(b) the reference to a compensation order having been made by a court includes a reference to such an order being treated, by virtue of [^{F15} section 252 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995], as having been so made.”

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 24(1) substituted (2.7.2002 for specified purposes and otherwise 6.10.2003) by [State Pension Credit Act 2002 \(c. 16\), ss. 14, 22\(2\)\(3\), Sch. 2 para. 31\(a\)](#); S.I. 2002/1691, [art. 2](#) ; S.I. 2003/1766, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 24(1)(a) substituted (11.6.1996) by 1995 c. 18, s. 41(4), [Sch. 2 para. 21](#); S.I. 1996/1509, [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)
- F3** S. 24(2)(aa) inserted (E.W.) (5.4.2004) by [Courts Act 2003 \(c. 39\), ss. 96\(1\)\(2\)](#) , 110; S.I. 2004/174, [art. 3](#)
- F4** Words in s. 24(2)(b) substituted (18.10.1998 for specified provisions, 29.11.1999 for further specified provisions, otherwise prosp.) by 1998 c. 14, s. 86(1), [Sch.7 para. 55](#); S.I. 1999/2860, [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#) (with [art. 5](#) and subject to transitional provisions in [Schs. 16-18](#)); S.I. 1999/3178, [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#) (subject to transitional provisions in [Schs. 21-23](#))
- F5** Words in s. 24(2)(d) substituted (2.7.2002 for specified purposes and otherwise 6.10.2003) by [State Pension Credit Act 2002 \(c. 16\), ss. 14, 22\(2\)\(3\), Sch. 2 para. 31\(b\)](#) ; S.I. 2002/1691, [art. 2](#) ; S.I. 2003/1766, [art. 2](#)
- F6** S. 24(2A)-(2C) inserted (E.W.) (5.4.2004) by [Courts Act 2003 \(c. 39\), ss. 96\(3\)](#) , 110; S.I. 2004/174, [art. 3](#)
- F7** Words in s. 24(3) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165, 168(1), [Sch. 9 para. 136](#)
- F8** S. 24(3)(c) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, [s. 47\(3\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)
- F9** Words in s. 24(3)(c) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 40, ss. 5, 7(2), [Sch. 4 para. 80\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- F10** Words in s. 24(4) substituted (1.9.1994) by 1994 c. 22, ss. 63, 66(1), [Sch. 3 para. 30](#) (with s. 57(4))
- F11** Words in s. 24(4) repealed (7.10.1996) by 1995 c. 18, s. 41(5), [Sch. 3](#); S.I. 1996/2208, [art. 2](#)
- F12** Word in s. 24(4) substituted (13.4.1995) by 1994 c. 18, s. 11(1), [Sch. 1 Pt. II para. 55](#); S.I. 1994/2926, [art. 2](#), [Sch. Pt. IV](#)
- F13** Words in definition of “income support” in s. 24(4) substituted (6.4.2001) by 1999 c. 30, s. 70, [Sch. 8 Pt. III para. 27](#); S.I. 2000/2958, [art. 2\(6\)\(b\)](#) (subject to arts. 3, 4)

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F14 S. 24(5)(a): words in subsection (3)(a) as it applies to Scotland substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 40, ss. 5, 7(2), **Sch. 4 para. 80(2)(a)**

F15 S. 24(5)(b): words in subsection (3)(b) as it applies to Scotland substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 40, ss. 5, 7(2), **Sch. 4 para. 80(2)(b)**

Commencement Information

I1 S. 24 wholly in force at 1.10.1992 see s. 102(2)(3) and S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**.

Marginal Citations

M1 1970 c. 31.

M2 1979 c. 2.

M3 1970 c. 31.

M4 1986 c. 50.

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