



Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 52

PART IV

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL

Courts of inquiry

216 Constitution and proceedings of court of inquiry.

- (1) A court of inquiry shall consist of—
 - (a) a chairman and such other persons as the Secretary of State thinks fit to appoint, or
 - (b) one person appointed by the Secretary of State, as the Secretary of State thinks fit.
- (2) A court may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its number.
- (3) A court may conduct its inquiry in public or in private, at its discretion.
- (4) The Secretary of State may make rules regulating the procedure of a court of inquiry, including rules as to summoning of witnesses, quorum, and the appointment of committees and enabling the court to call for such documents as the court may determine to be relevant to the subject-matter of the inquiry.
- (5) A court of inquiry may, if and to such extent as may be authorised by rules under this section, by order require any person who appears to the court to have knowledge of the subject-matter of the inquiry—

Changes to legislation: Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, Section 216 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (a) to supply (in writing or otherwise) such particulars in relation thereto as the court may require, and
 - (b) where necessary, to attend before the court and give evidence on oath;
- and the court may administer or authorise any person to administer an oath for that purpose.
- (6) Provision shall be made by rules under this section with respect to the cases in which persons may appear by [^{F1}a relevant lawyer] in proceedings before a court of inquiry, and except as provided by those rules no person shall be entitled to appear in any such proceedings by [^{F1}a relevant lawyer].
- [^{F2}(7) In subsection (6) “relevant lawyer” means—
- (a) a person who, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, is an authorised person in relation to an activity which constitutes the exercise of a right of audience or the conduct of litigation within the meaning of that Act, or
 - (b) an advocate or solicitor in Scotland.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 216(6) substituted (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 208, 210, 211(2), [Sch. 21 para. 106\(a\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, [art. 2\(h\)](#) (with art. 9)
- F2** S. 216(7) inserted (1.1.2010) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\)](#), ss. 208, 210, 211(2), [Sch. 21 para. 106\(b\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, [art. 2\(h\)](#) (with art. 9)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 212A(1)(zb) inserted by [2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 1](#)