



# Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 25

### PART I

#### DISCLOSURE

##### *Time limits*

#### **12 Time limits.**

- (1) This section has effect for the purpose of determining the relevant period for sections 3, 5, 6 [F1, 6B, 6C and 7A(5)] .
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the relevant period is a period beginning and ending with such days as the Secretary of State prescribes by regulations for the purposes of the section concerned.
- (3) The regulations may do one or more of the following—
  - (a) provide that the relevant period for any section shall if the court so orders be extended (or further extended) by so many days as the court specifies;
  - (b) provide that the court may only make such an order if an application is made by a prescribed person and if any other prescribed conditions are fulfilled;
  - (c) provide that an application may only be made if prescribed conditions are fulfilled;
  - (d) provide that the number of days by which a period may be extended shall be entirely at the court's discretion;
  - (e) provide that the number of days by which a period may be extended shall not exceed a prescribed number;
  - (f) provide that there shall be no limit on the number of applications that may be made to extend a period;
  - (g) provide that no more than a prescribed number of applications may be made to extend a period;

*Status: Point in time view as at 24/04/2009.*

**Changes to legislation:** Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, Cross Heading: Time limits is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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)

and references to the relevant period for a section shall be construed accordingly.

- (4) Conditions mentioned in subsection (3) may be framed by reference to such factors as the Secretary of State thinks fit.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (4), so far as the relevant period for section 3 or [F2, 6B, 6C and 7A(5)] is concerned—
- (a) conditions may be framed by reference to the nature or volume of the material concerned;
  - (b) the nature of material may be defined by reference to the prosecutor’s belief that the question of non-disclosure on grounds of public interest may arise.
- (6) In subsection (3) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under this section.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 12(1) substituted (4.4.2005 for E.W. and 15.7.2005 for N.I.) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\)](#), ss. 331, 336, [Sch. 36 Pt. 3 para. 28\(a\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2](#), Sch. 1; S.I. 2005/1817, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Word in s. 12(5) substituted (4.4.2005 for E.W. and 15.7.2005 for N.I.) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\)](#), ss. 331, 336, [Sch. 36 Pt. 3 para. 28\(b\)](#); S.I. 2005/950, [art. 2](#), Sch. 1; S.I. 2005/1817, [art. 2](#)

### 13 Time limits: transitional.

- (1) As regards a case in relation to which no regulations under section 12 have come into force for the purposes of section 3, section 3(8) shall have effect as if it read—

“(8) The prosecutor must act under this section as soon as is reasonably practicable after—

- (a) the accused pleads not guilty (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(1)),
- (b) the accused is committed for trial (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(a)),
- (c) the proceedings are transferred (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(b) or (c)),
- [F3(ca) copies of the documents containing the evidence on which the charge or charges are based are served on the accused (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(cc)),]
- (d) the count is included in the indictment (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(d)), or
- (e) the bill of indictment is preferred (where this Part applies by virtue of section 1(2)(e) [F4 or (f)]).”

- [F5(2) As regards a case in relation to which no regulations under section 12 have come into force for the purposes of section 7A, section 7A(5) shall have effect as if—

- (a) in paragraph (a) for the words from “during the period” to the end, and
- (b) in paragraph (b) for “during that period”,

there were substituted as soon as is reasonably practicable after the accused gives the statement in question.]

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### Extent Information

- E1** In its application to Northern Ireland, this section has effect subject to the modifications set out in Schedule 4; see [s. 79](#)

### Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in [s. 13\(1\)](#) inserted (27.9.1999 for certain areas and otherwise 8.1.2001) by [1999 c. 22](#), [ss. 67\(2\)](#), [108\(1\)](#) (with [Sch. 14 para. 7\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1999/2657](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#), [Sch. 1](#); [S.I.2000/3280](#), [art. 2](#)
- F4** Words in [s. 13\(1\)](#) inserted (E.W.) (1.6.1999) by [1998 c. 37](#), [s. 119](#), [Sch. 8 para. 127\(b\)](#); [S.I. 1999/1279](#), [art. 2\(f\)](#)
- F5** [S. 13\(2\)](#) substituted (4.4.2005 for E.W. and 15.7.2005 for N.I.) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\)](#), [ss. 331](#), [336](#), [Sch. 36 Pt. 3 para. 29](#); [S.I. 2005/950](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#); [S.I. 2005/1817](#), [art. 2](#)

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