



Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 35

Eligibility for release

6 Life prisoners.

- (1) When Commissioners grant a declaration to a life prisoner in relation to a sentence they must specify a day which they believe marks the completion of about two thirds of the period which the prisoner would have been likely to spend in prison under the sentence.
- (2) The prisoner has a right to be released on licence (so far as that sentence is concerned) —
 - (a) on the day specified under subsection (1), or
 - (b) if that day falls on or before the day of the declaration, by the end of the day after the day of the declaration.
- (3) But if he would have a right to be released on or by the end of a listed day (within the meaning of section 4(3)) he has a right to be released on or by the end of the next non-listed day.

Changes to legislation:

Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998, Section 6 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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. 3(6A)(6B) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 12 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 3(7A)(7B) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 12 para. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 13A inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 12 para. 4](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 2(A1)(A2) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 12 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 2(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 12 para. 3\(4\)](#)