



Crime and Disorder Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 37

PART III

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Functions of courts etc.

[^{F1}51B Notices in serious or complex fraud cases

- (1) A notice may be given by a designated authority under this section in respect of an indictable offence if the authority is of the opinion that the evidence of the offence charged—
 - (a) is sufficient for the person charged to be put on trial for the offence; and
 - (b) reveals a case of fraud of such seriousness or complexity that it is appropriate that the management of the case should without delay be taken over by the Crown Court.
- (2) That opinion must be certified by the designated authority in the notice.
- (3) The notice must also specify the proposed place of trial, and in selecting that place the designated authority must have regard to the same matters as are specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 51D(4) below.
- (4) A notice under this section must be given to the magistrates' court at which the person charged appears or before which he is brought.
- (5) Such a notice must be given to the magistrates' court before any summary trial begins.
- (6) The effect of such a notice is that the functions of the magistrates' court cease in relation to the case, except—
 - (a) for the purposes of section 51D below;
 - (b) as provided by [^{F2}regulations under section 19 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012]; and
 - (c) as provided by section 52 below.

Changes to legislation: Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 51B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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

- (7) The functions of a designated authority under this section may be exercised by an officer of the authority acting on behalf of the authority.
- (8) A decision to give a notice under this section shall not be subject to appeal or liable to be questioned in any court (whether a magistrates' court or not).
- (9) In this section “designated authority” means—
- (a) the Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - (b) the Director of the Serious Fraud Office;
 - ^{F3}(c)
 - (e) the Secretary of State.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 51-51E substituted for s. 51 (4.4.2005 for specified purposes, 18.6.2012 for specified purposes, 5.11.2012 for specified purposes, 28.5.2013 for specified purposes) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\)](#), s. 336(3)(4), Sch. 3 para. 18; [S.I. 2005/950](#), art. 2(1), Sch. 1 para. 29(a) (with Sch. 2) (as explained (29.7.2005) by [S.I. 2005/2122](#), art. 2; and as amended: (14.7.2008) by [2008 c. 4](#), Sch. 26 para. 78, Sch. 28 Pt. 2; [S.I. 2008/1586](#), Sch. 1 paras. 48(s), 50(2)(d); (30.11.2009) by [S.I. 2009/3111](#), art. 2; (3.12.2012) by [S.I. 2012/2905](#), art. 4; (3.12.2012) by [2012 c. 10](#), Sch. 14 para. 17; [S.I. 2012/2906](#), art. 2(1)); [S.I. 2012/1320](#), art. 4(1)(c)(2)(3) (with art. 5) (see [S.I. 2012/2574](#), art. 4(2) and [S.I. 2013/1103](#), art. 4); [S.I. 2012/2574](#), art. 2(2)(3)(c), Sch. (with arts. 3, 4) (as amended (4.11.2012) by [S.I. 2012/2761](#), art. 2) (with [S.I. 2013/1103](#), art. 4); [S.I. 2013/1103](#), art. 2(1)(c)(2)(3) (with arts. 3, 4)
- F2** Words in s. 51B(6)(b) substituted (1.4.2013) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), s. 151(1), [Sch. 5 para. 48](#); [S.I. 2013/453](#), art. 3(h) (with savings and transitional provisions in [S.I. 2013/534](#), art. 6)
- F3** S. 51B(9)(c) omitted (27.3.2014) by virtue of [The Public Bodies \(Merger of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/834\)](#), art. 1(1), [Sch. 2 para. 15](#)

Changes to legislation:

Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 51B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 51B(4) words inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 8\(3\)](#)

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. 1(1C) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 40\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 40 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 8A inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 8A repealed by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 24\(c\)](#)
- s. 9(2)(d) and word inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(4\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 9(2)(d) and word omitted by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 26\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 9(2AA) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 41\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 41 repealed (23.3.2015) without ever being in force by 2014 c. 12, Sch. 11 para. 46; S.I. 2015/373, art. 4(f)(x))
- s. 9(2AA) repealed by [2014 c. 12 Sch. 11 para. 26\(5\)](#)
- s. 41(5)(i)(ii) words substituted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 37\(3\)](#)
- s. 47(A1) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(2\)](#)
- s. 47(1)-(1F) substituted for s. 47(1) by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(a) word substituted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(a) words renumbered as s. 47(4)(a) by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 47(4)(b) and word inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 47(4A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 12\(7\)](#)
- s. 50A(6) inserted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 8\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 51(2A)-(2E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(4\)](#)
- s. 51(3A)(3B) substituted for s. 51(3)-(12) by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 51A(A1) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(7\)](#)
- s. 51A(3A)-(3E) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(9\)](#)
- s. 51A(4A)(4B) substituted for s.0051A(4)-(10) by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(10\)](#)
- s. 52(2A) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 10\(11\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 3(11A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 3 para. 71\(d\)](#)