



Criminal Justice Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 44

PART 12

SENTENCING

CHAPTER 5

DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

225 Life sentence or imprisonment for public protection for serious offences

(1) This section applies where—

- (a) a person aged 18 or over is convicted of a serious offence committed after the commencement of this section, and
- (b) the court is of the opinion that there is a significant risk to members of the public of serious harm occasioned by the commission by him of further specified offences.

(2) If—

- (a) the offence is one in respect of which the offender would apart from this section be liable to imprisonment for life, and
- (b) the court considers that the seriousness of the offence, or of the offence and one or more offences associated with it, is such as to justify the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for life,

the court must impose a sentence of imprisonment for life.

[^{F1}(3) In a case not falling within subsection (2), the court may impose a sentence of imprisonment for public protection if the condition in subsection (3A) or the condition in subsection (3B) is met.

(3A) The condition in this subsection is that, at the time the offence was committed, the offender had been convicted of an offence specified in Schedule 15A.

Status: Point in time view as at 14/07/2008. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 225 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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)

- (3B) The condition in this subsection is that the notional minimum term is at least two years.
- (3C) The notional minimum term is the part of the sentence that the court would specify under section 82A(2) of the Sentencing Act (determination of tariff) if it imposed a sentence of imprisonment for public protection but was required to disregard the matter mentioned in section 82A(3)(b) of that Act (crediting periods of remand).]
- (4) A sentence of imprisonment for public protection is a sentence of imprisonment for an indeterminate period, subject to the provisions of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (c. 43) as to the release of prisoners and duration of licences.
- (5) An offence the sentence for which is imposed under this section is not to be regarded as an offence the sentence for which is fixed by law.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 225(3)-(3C) substituted (14.7.2008) for s. 225(3) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), [ss. 13\(1\)](#), 153; [S.I. 2008/1586](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 4](#), (subject to [art. 2\(3\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 2](#))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 225 applied (with modifications) (28.3.2009 for certain purposes, otherwise 31.10.2009) by [Armed Forces Act 2006 \(c. 52\)](#), [ss. 219](#), 383 (with [s. 385](#)) (as amended (31.10.2009) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), [ss. 145](#), 153, [Sch. 25 para. 13](#); [S.I. 2009/1028](#), [art. 2](#)); [S.I. 2009/812](#), [art. 3](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2009/1059](#)); [S.I. 2009/1167](#), [art. 4](#)
- C2** S. 225 modified (14.7.2008) [The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(Transitory Provisions\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1587\)](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 225 wholly in force at 4.4.2005, see [s. 336\(3\)](#) and [S.I. 2005/950](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 18](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

Status:

Point in time view as at 14/07/2008. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

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