



Sentencing Act 2020

2020 CHAPTER 17

THIRD GROUP OF PARTS Disposals

PART 10

CUSTODIAL SENTENCES

CHAPTER 4

ADULTS AGED 21 AND OVER

Life sentences

285 Required life sentence for offence carrying life sentence

- (1) This section applies where a court is dealing with an offender for an offence where—
 - (a) the offender is aged 21 or over at the time of conviction,
 - (b) the offence is a Schedule 19 offence (see section 307),
 - (c) the offence was committed on or after 4 April 2005, and
 - (d) 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 the offender of further specified offences (see sections 306(1) and 308).
- (2) The pre-sentence report requirements (see section 30) apply to the court in relation to forming the opinion mentioned in subsection (1)(d).
- (3) If the court considers that the seriousness of—
 - (a) the offence, or
 - (b) 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.

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2022.

Changes to legislation: Sentencing Act 2020, Section 285 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. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) 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.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 285(3) applied (with modifications) by 2006 c. 52, s. 219(2)(3)(5) (as amended (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 416(1), Sch. 25 para. 39(4)(5)(7) (with s. 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 285 in force at 1.12.2020 by [S.I. 2020/1236](#), **reg. 2**

Status:

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