



Victims and Prisoners Act 2024

2024 CHAPTER 21

PART 1

VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT

PROSPECTIVE

Victims' Commissioner

22 Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

- (1) The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 49 (functions of Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses)—
 - (a) in subsection (1)(c), for “section 32” substitute “section 2 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, including the extent to which the duty in [section 5\(1\)](#) of that Act (duty to provide services in accordance with the code) is being complied with”;
 - (b) in subsection (2)(c), after “remit” insert “(whether or not made by way of inclusion in a report prepared under paragraph (b) or subsection (4))”;
 - (c) after subsection (4) insert—

“(4A) A report prepared under subsection (2)(b) or (4) may include provision making recommendations to any authority within the Commissioner’s remit.”;
 - (d) after subsection (5) insert—

“(5A) The Commissioner must arrange for each report prepared under subsection (4) to be laid before Parliament.”
- (3) After section 49 insert—

Status: This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, Cross Heading: Victims' Commissioner. (See end of Document for details)

“49A Duty to respond to Commissioner’s recommendations

- (1) This section applies where the Commissioner publishes a report under section 49(2)(b) or (4) containing recommendations to an authority within the Commissioner’s remit.
- (2) The relevant person must prepare comments on the report.
- (3) The relevant person is—
 - (a) where the authority is a government department in the charge of a Minister of the Crown, the Minister, or
 - (b) in any other case, the authority.
- (4) The comments must include, in respect of each recommendation made in the report, an explanation of—
 - (a) the action which the relevant person has taken, or proposes to take, in response to the recommendation, or
 - (b) why the relevant person has not taken, or does not propose to take, any action in response.
- (5) The relevant person must arrange for the comments to be published in such manner as the person considers appropriate.
- (6) The comments must be published before the end of the period of 56 days beginning with the day on which the report is published.
- (7) The relevant person must send a copy of anything published under subsection (6) to—
 - (a) the Commissioner, and
 - (b) (unless the authority is a government department in the charge of a Minister of the Crown) the Secretary of State.”

(4) After section 51 insert—

“51A Duty to co-operate with Commissioner

- (1) The Commissioner may request a relevant person to co-operate with the Commissioner in any way that the Commissioner considers necessary for the purposes of the Commissioner’s functions.
 - (2) A relevant person must comply with a request made to the person under this section, so far as it is appropriate and reasonably practicable for the person to do so.
 - (3) In this section “relevant person” means a person who is not an individual and is subject to the duty in [section 5\(1\)](#) of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (duty to provide services in accordance with the code issued under section 2 of that Act).”
- (5) In Schedule 9 (authorities within Commissioner’s remit)—
- (a) for paragraphs 1VA to 8B substitute—
 - “1 A government department in the charge of a Minister of the Crown.”;

Status: This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, Cross Heading: Victims' Commissioner. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) after paragraph 11 insert—
 - “11A A local policing body.”;
- (c) after paragraph 16 insert—
 - “16A His Majesty’s Inspectors of Constabulary.”;
- (d) after paragraph 29 insert—
 - “29A His Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service.
 - 29B His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons.
 - 29C His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation for England and Wales.”

Commencement Information

- II** S. 22 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 81\(2\)](#)

Status:

This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, Cross Heading: Victims' Commissioner.