



# Insolvency Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 45

### [<sup>F1</sup>PART 7A

#### DEBT RELIEF ORDERS

#### [<sup>F1</sup>Role of the court

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 7A inserted (24.2.2009 for certain purposes otherwise 6.4.2009) by [Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 108(1), 148(5), [Sch. 17](#); S.I. 2009/382, [art. 2](#)

#### **251M Powers of court in relation to debt relief orders**

- (1) Any person may make an application to the court if he is dissatisfied by any act, omission or decision of the official receiver in connection with a debt relief order or an application for such an order.
- (2) The official receiver may make an application to the court for directions or an order in relation to any matter arising in connection with a debt relief order or an application for such an order.
- (3) The matters referred to in subsection (2) include, among other things, matters relating to the debtor's compliance with any duty arising under section 251J.
- (4) An application under this section may, subject to anything in the rules, be made at any time.
- (5) The court may extend the moratorium period applicable to a debt relief order for the purposes of determining an application under this section.
- (6) On an application under this section the court may dismiss the application or do one or more of the following—
  - (a) quash the whole or part of any act or decision of the official receiver;

---

*Changes to legislation: Insolvency Act 1986, Cross Heading: Role of the court is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 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*

---

- (b) give the official receiver directions (including a direction that he reconsider any matter in relation to which his act or decision has been quashed under paragraph (a));
  - (c) make an order for the enforcement of any obligation on the debtor arising by virtue of a duty under section 251J;
  - (d) extend the moratorium period applicable to the debt relief order;
  - (e) make an order revoking or amending the debt relief order;
  - (f) make an order under section 251N; or
  - (g) make such other order as the court thinks fit.
- (7) An order under subsection (6)(e) for the revocation of a debt relief order—
- (a) may be made during the moratorium period applicable to the debt relief order or at any time after that period has ended;
  - (b) may be made on the court's own motion if the court has made a bankruptcy order in relation to the debtor during that period;
  - (c) may provide for the revocation of the order to take effect on such terms and at such a time as the court may specify.
- (8) An order under subsection (6)(e) for the amendment of a debt relief order may not add any debts that were not specified in the application for the debt relief order to the list of qualifying debts.

## **251N Inquiry into debtor's dealings and property**

- (1) An order under this section may be made by the court on the application of the official receiver.
- (2) An order under this section is an order summoning any of the following persons to appear before the court—
- (a) the debtor;
  - (b) the debtor's spouse or former spouse or the debtor's civil partner or former civil partner;
  - (c) any person appearing to the court to be able to give information or assistance concerning the debtor or his dealings, affairs and property.
- (3) The court may require a person falling within subsection (2)(c)—
- (a) to provide a written account of his dealings with the debtor; or
  - (b) to produce any documents in his possession or under his control relating to the debtor or to the debtor's dealings, affairs or property.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies where a person fails without reasonable excuse to appear before the court when he is summoned to do so by an order under this section.
- (5) The court may cause a warrant to be issued to a constable or prescribed officer of the court—
- (a) for the arrest of that person, and
  - (b) for the seizure of any records or other documents in that person's possession.
- (6) The court may authorise a person arrested under such a warrant to be kept in custody, and anything seized under such a warrant to be held, in accordance with the rules, until that person is brought before the court under the warrant or until such other time as the court may order.]

**Changes to legislation:**

Insolvency Act 1986, Cross Heading: Role of the court is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 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:**

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision S.I. 1986/1999, art. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 by [S.I. 2017/1119 Sch. 3 para. 1](#)
- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 41HB(2) words substituted by [2018 c. 14 s. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)