



Insolvency Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 45

[^{F1}PART 7A

DEBT RELIEF ORDERS

Applications for a debt relief order

[^{F1}251C Duty of official receiver to consider and determine application

- (1) This section applies where an application for a debt relief order is made.
- (2) The official receiver may stay consideration of the application until he has received answers to any queries raised with the debtor in relation to anything connected with the application.
- (3) The official receiver must determine the application by—
 - (a) deciding whether to refuse the application;
 - (b) if he does not refuse it, by making a debt relief order in relation to the specified debts he is satisfied were qualifying debts of the debtor at the application date;but he may only refuse the application if he is authorised or required to do so by any of the following provisions of this section.
- (4) The official receiver may refuse the application if he considers that—
 - (a) the application does not meet all the requirements imposed by or under section 251B;
 - (b) any queries raised with the debtor have not been answered to the satisfaction of the official receiver within such time as he may specify when they are raised;
 - (c) the debtor has made any false representation or omission in making the application or on supplying any information or documents in support of it.
- (5) The official receiver must refuse the application if he is not satisfied that—
 - (a) the debtor is an individual who is unable to pay his debts;

Changes to legislation: *Insolvency Act 1986, Section 251C is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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) at least one of the specified debts was a qualifying debt of the debtor at the application date;
 - (c) each of the conditions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 4ZA is met.
- (6) The official receiver may refuse the application if he is not satisfied that each condition specified in Part 2 of Schedule 4ZA is met.
- (7) If the official receiver refuses an application he must give reasons for his refusal to the debtor in the prescribed manner.
- (8) In this section “specified debt” means a debt specified in the application.]

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](#)

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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\(3\)\(b\)](#)