



Criminal Justice Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 33

^{F1}PART II

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

25 Principles to be followed by court.

- (1) If, having regard to all the circumstances—
 - (a) the Crown Court—
 - (i) on a trial on indictment;
 - (ii) on an appeal from a magistrates' court; ^{F1} . . .
 - (iii) on the hearing of an application under section 6 of the ^{M1}Criminal Justice Act 1987 (applications for dismissal of charges of fraud transferred from magistrates' court to Crown Court); or
 - ^{F2}(iv) on the hearing of an application under paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (applications for dismissal of charges in certain cases involving children transferred from magistrates' court to Crown Court); or]
 - (b) the criminal division of the Court of Appeal; or
 - (c) a magistrates' court on a trial of an information,

is of the opinion that in the interests of justice a statement which is admissible by virtue of section 23 or 24 above nevertheless ought not to be admitted, it may direct that the statement shall not be admitted.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, it shall be the duty of the court to have regard—
 - (a) to the nature and source of the document containing the statement and to whether or not, having regard to its nature and source and to any other circumstances that appear to the court to be relevant, it is likely that the document is authentic;
 - (b) to the extent to which the statement appears to supply evidence which would otherwise not be readily available;

Changes to legislation: *Criminal Justice Act 1988, Section 25 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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*

- (c) to the relevance of the evidence that it appears to supply to any issue which is likely to have to be determined in the proceedings; and
- (d) to any risk, having regard in particular to whether it is likely to be possible to controvert the statement if the person making it does not attend to give oral evidence in the proceedings, that its admission or exclusion will result in unfairness to the accused or, if there is more than one, to any of them.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 25(1)(a)(ii) repealed (4.9.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(3), **Sch.11**; S.I. 1995/1957, **art.6**
 - F2** S. 25(1)(a)(iv) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 31**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2, **Sch. 1**, APPENDIX
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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 25 restricted (10.6.1991) by Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 (c. 5, SIF 39:1), **s. 3(8)**; S.I. 1991/1072, art. 2(a), **Sch. Pt. I**
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Marginal Citations

- M1** 1987 c. 38.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

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

- s. 36(2)(b)(v) and word inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 36(3A)(3B) substituted for s. 36(3A) by [2008 c. 4 s. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 41(4A) inserted by [2004 c. 28 Sch. 10 para. 28](#)
- s. 139AZA(1)(a)(iii) and word inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 13\(4\)\(b\)](#)