



# Criminal Justice Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 44

### PART 11

#### EVIDENCE

### CHAPTER 1

#### EVIDENCE OF BAD CHARACTER

##### *Introductory*

#### **98 “Bad character”**

References in this Chapter to evidence of a person’s “bad character” are to evidence of, or of a disposition towards, misconduct on his part, other than evidence which—

- (a) has to do with the alleged facts of the offence with which the defendant is charged, or
- (b) is evidence of misconduct in connection with the investigation or prosecution of that offence.

#### **99 Abolition of common law rules**

- (1) The common law rules governing the admissibility of evidence of bad character in criminal proceedings are abolished.
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to section 118(1) in so far as it preserves the rule under which in criminal proceedings a person’s reputation is admissible for the purposes of proving his bad character.

**Changes to legislation:**

Criminal Justice Act 2003, Cross Heading: Introductory is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 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 :**

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2574, Sch. by [S.I. 2012/2761 art. 2](#)

**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. 150(aa) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 150(ba) inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 26 para. 19\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 26 para. 19 omitted (11.12.2013) by virtue of 2013 c. 22, Sch. 16 para. 23(2); S.I. 2013/2981, art. 2(d))
- s. 151(A1) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(3\)](#)
- s. 151(1A) inserted by [2008 c. 4 s. 11\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(1A)(b) word substituted by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 76\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(1A)(c) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 151(1A) is still only prospectively inserted by 2008 c. 4, s. 11(5))
- s. 151(2A)(b) substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 151(4A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(a) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 151(8)(c)-(f) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 17 para. 8\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 165(5) inserted by [2014 c. 12 s. 179\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(3\)](#)
- s. 237(1B)(f)(g) inserted by [2021 c. 11 Sch. 13 para. 40\(b\)](#)
- s. 239A inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- s. 239A cross-heading inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 5](#)
- s. 250(5C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 255A(4A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 255B(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255B(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 255C(3A) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 255C(4A)-(4C) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 256A(1)-(1B) substituted for s. 256A(1) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 256A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 256A(5)(6) substituted for s. 256A(5) by [2015 c. 2 s. 9\(6\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 256AZA inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 10\(1\)](#)
- s. 257(3) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(4\)](#)
- s. 258(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 48 s. 34\(5\)](#)
- s. 260(4)(aa) substituted for word by [2008 c. 4 s. 34\(7\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 34(2)(4)(b)(7)(10) omitted (3.12.2012) by virtue of 2012 c. 10, s. 118(4)(b); S.I. 2012/2906, art. 2(d))

- Sch. 15B para. 49A omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 15B para. 49B omitted by [S.I. 2019/780 reg. 26\(4\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Regs. 21, 25, 26, 27, 30 revoked (1.12.2020) by 2020 c. 17, Sch. 28; S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- Sch. 20B para. 34(6)(7) substituted for Sch. 20B para. 34(6) by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 10](#)