

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

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice Act 2003, Cross Heading: Right of appeal in respect of evidentiary rulings 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*



# Criminal Justice Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 44

### PART 9

#### PROSECUTION APPEALS

PROSPECTIVE

#### *Right of appeal in respect of evidentiary rulings*

#### **62 Right of appeal in respect of evidentiary rulings**

- (1) The prosecution may, in accordance with this section and section 63, appeal in respect of—
  - (a) a single qualifying evidentiary ruling, or
  - (b) two or more qualifying evidentiary rulings.
- (2) A “qualifying evidentiary ruling” is an evidentiary ruling of a judge in relation to a trial on indictment which is made at any time (whether before or after the commencement of the trial) before the opening of the case for the defence.
- (3) The prosecution may not appeal in respect of a single qualifying evidentiary ruling unless the ruling relates to one or more qualifying offences (whether or not it relates to any other offence).
- (4) The prosecution may not appeal in respect of two or more qualifying evidentiary rulings unless each ruling relates to one or more qualifying offences (whether or not it relates to any other offence).
- (5) If the prosecution intends to appeal under this section, it must before the opening of the case for the defence inform the court—
  - (a) of its intention to do so, and
  - (b) of the ruling or rulings to which the appeal relates.
- (6) In respect of the ruling, or each ruling, to which the appeal relates—

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- (a) the qualifying offence, or at least one of the qualifying offences, to which the ruling relates must be the subject of the appeal, and
  - (b) any other offence to which the ruling relates may, but need not, be the subject of the appeal.
- (7) The prosecution must, at the same time that it informs the court in accordance with subsection (5), inform the court of the offence or offences which are the subject of the appeal.
- (8) For the purposes of this section, the case for the defence opens when, after the conclusion of the prosecution evidence, the earliest of the following events occurs—
- (a) evidence begins to be adduced by or on behalf of a defendant,
  - (b) it is indicated to the court that no evidence will be adduced by or on behalf of a defendant,
  - (c) a defendant’s case is opened, as permitted by section 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1865 (c. 18).
- (9) In this section—
- “evidentiary ruling” means a ruling which relates to the admissibility or exclusion of any prosecution evidence,
  - “qualifying offence” means an offence described in Part 1 of Schedule 4.
- (10) The Secretary of State may by order amend that Part by doing any one or more of the following—
- (a) adding a description of offence,
  - (b) removing a description of offence for the time being included,
  - (c) modifying a description of offence for the time being included.
- (11) Nothing in this section affects the right of the prosecution to appeal in respect of an evidentiary ruling under section 58.

### **63 Condition that evidentiary ruling significantly weakens prosecution case**

- (1) Leave to appeal may not be given in relation to an appeal under section 62 unless the judge or, as the case may be, the Court of Appeal is satisfied that the relevant condition is fulfilled.
- (2) In relation to an appeal in respect of a single qualifying evidentiary ruling, the relevant condition is that the ruling significantly weakens the prosecution’s case in relation to the offence or offences which are the subject of the appeal.
- (3) In relation to an appeal in respect of two or more qualifying evidentiary rulings, the relevant condition is that the rulings taken together significantly weaken the prosecution’s case in relation to the offence or offences which are the subject of the appeal.

### **64 Expedited and non-expedited appeals**

- (1) Where the prosecution informs the court in accordance with section 62(5), the judge must decide whether or not the appeal should be expedited.
- (2) If the judge decides that the appeal should be expedited, he may order an adjournment.
- (3) If the judge decides that the appeal should not be expedited, he may—

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- (a) order an adjournment, or
  - (b) discharge the jury (if one has been sworn).
- (4) If he decides that the appeal should be expedited, he or the Court of Appeal may subsequently reverse that decision and, if it is reversed, the judge may act as mentioned in subsection (3)(a) or (b).

#### **65 Continuation of proceedings for offences not affected by ruling**

- (1) This section applies where the prosecution informs the court in accordance with section 62(5).
- (2) Proceedings may be continued in respect of any offence which is not the subject of the appeal.

#### **66 Determination of appeal by Court of Appeal**

- (1) On an appeal under section 62, the Court of Appeal may confirm, reverse or vary any ruling to which the appeal relates.
- (2) In addition, the Court of Appeal must, in respect of the offence or each offence which is the subject of the appeal, do any of the following—
  - (a) order that proceedings for that offence be resumed in the Crown Court,
  - (b) order that a fresh trial may take place in the Crown Court for that offence,
  - (c) order that the defendant in relation to that offence be acquitted of that offence.
- (3) But no order may be made under subsection (2)(c) in respect of an offence unless the prosecution has indicated that it does not intend to continue with the prosecution of that offence.

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**Changes to legislation:**

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**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](#)