



Criminal Justice Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 44

PART 12

SENTENCING

CHAPTER 6

[^{F1} RELEASE, LICENCES^{F1}, SUPERVISION] AND RECALL]

Power of court to recommend licence conditions

239 The Parole Board

- (1) The Parole Board is to continue to be, by that name, a body corporate and as such is—
 - (a) to be constituted in accordance with this Chapter, and
 - (b) to have the functions conferred on it by this Chapter in respect of fixed-term prisoners and by Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (c. 43) (in this Chapter referred to as “the 1997 Act”) in respect of life prisoners within the meaning of that Chapter.
- (2) It is the duty of the Board to advise the Secretary of State with respect to any matter referred to it by him which is to do with the early release or recall of prisoners.
- (3) The Board must, in dealing with cases as respects which it makes recommendations under this Chapter or under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1997 Act, consider—
 - (a) any documents given to it by the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) any other oral or written information obtained by it;and if in any particular case the Board thinks it necessary to interview the person to whom the case relates before reaching a decision, the Board may authorise one of its members to interview him and must consider the report of the interview made by that member.

Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 239 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

- (4) The Board must deal with cases as respects which it gives directions under this Chapter or under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1997 Act on consideration of all such evidence as may be adduced before it.
- (5) Without prejudice to subsections (3) and (4), the Secretary of State may make rules with respect to the proceedings of the Board, including proceedings authorising cases to be dealt with by a prescribed number of its members or requiring cases to be dealt with at prescribed times.

[^{F1}(5A) Rules under subsection (5) may, in particular, make provision—

- (a) requiring or permitting the Board to make provisional decisions;
- (b) about the circumstances—
 - (i) in which the Board must or may reconsider such decisions;
 - (ii) in which such decisions become final;
- (c) conferring power on the Board to set aside a decision or direction that is within subsection (5B),

and any such provision may relate to cases referred to the Board under this Chapter or under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1997 Act.

(5B) The following are within this subsection—

- (a) a direction given by the Board for, or a decision made by it not to direct, the release of a prisoner which the Board determines it would not have given or made but for an error of law or fact, or
- (b) a direction given by the Board for the release of a prisoner which the Board determines it would not have given if—
 - (i) information that was not available to the Board when the direction was given had been so available, or
 - (ii) a change in circumstances relating to the prisoner that occurred after the direction was given had occurred before it was given.

(5C) Provision made by virtue of subsection (5A)(c)—

- (a) may not confer power on the Board to set aside a direction for the release of a prisoner at any time when the prisoner has already been released pursuant to that direction, but
- (b) may make provision for the suspension of any requirement under this Chapter or under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1997 Act for the Secretary of State to give effect to a direction of the Board to release a prisoner, pending consideration by the Board as to whether to set it aside.]

- (6) The Secretary of State may also give to the Board directions as to the matters to be taken into account by it in discharging any functions under this Chapter or under Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the 1997 Act; and in giving any such directions the Secretary of State must have regard to—
 - (a) the need to protect the public from serious harm from offenders, and
 - (b) the desirability of preventing the commission by them of further offences and of securing their rehabilitation.

(7) Schedule 19 shall have effect with respect to the Board.

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Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 239(5A)-(5C) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 133](#), [208\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2022/520](#), [reg. 5\(o\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 12 Ch. 6 modified (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), [s. 245\(1\)\(2\)\(c\)](#), [416\(1\)](#) (with [ss. 2](#), [245\(3\)](#), [398\(1\)](#), [406](#), [Sch. 27](#)); [S.I. 2020/1236](#), [reg. 2](#)
- C2** Pt. 12 Ch. 6 modified (1.12.2020) by [Sentencing Act 2020 \(c. 17\)](#), [s. 244\(1\)\(2\)\(c\)](#), [416\(1\)](#) (with [ss. 2](#), [244\(3\)](#), [398\(1\)](#), [406](#), [Sch. 27](#)); [S.I. 2020/1236](#), [reg. 2](#)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 239 wholly in force at 4.4.2005; s. 239 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 336\(3\)](#); s. 239 in force for certain purposes at 26.1.2004 by [S.I. 2003/3282](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#); s. 239(5)(6) in force at 7.3.2005 by [S.I. 2005/373](#), [art. 2](#); s. 239 in force in so far as not already in force at 4.4.2005 by [S.I. 2005/950](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 19](#) (subject to [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#))

Changes to legislation:

Criminal Justice Act 2003, Section 239 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 239(1)(b) words inserted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 3 para. 6](#)
- 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](#)