



Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007

2007 CHAPTER 6

Trials on indictment without a jury

4 Court for trial

- (1) A trial on indictment in relation to which a certificate under section 1 has been issued is to be held only at the Crown Court sitting in Belfast, unless the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland directs that—
 - (a) the trial,
 - (b) a part of the trial, or
 - (c) a class of trials within which the trial falls,is to be held at the Crown Court sitting elsewhere.
- (2) The Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland may nominate any of the following to exercise his functions under subsection (1)—
 - (a) the holder of one of the offices listed in Schedule 1 to the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (c. 26);
 - (b) a Lord Justice of Appeal (as defined in section 88 of that Act).
- (3) If a person is committed for trial on indictment and a certificate under section 1 has been issued in relation to the trial, the person must be committed—
 - (a) to the Crown Court sitting in Belfast, or
 - (b) where a direction has been given under subsection (1) which concerns the trial, to the Crown Court sitting at the place specified in the direction;and section 48 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (c. 23) (committal for trial on indictment) has effect accordingly.
- (4) Where—
 - (a) a person is committed for trial on indictment otherwise than to the Crown Court sitting at the relevant venue, and
 - (b) a certificate under section 1 is subsequently issued in relation to the trial,

the person is to be treated as having been committed for trial to the Crown Court sitting at the relevant venue.

- (5) In subsection (4) “the relevant venue”, in relation to a trial, means—
- (a) if the trial falls within a class specified in a direction under subsection (1)(c) (or would fall within such a class had a certificate under section 1 been issued in relation to the trial), the place specified in the direction;
 - (b) otherwise, Belfast.
- (6) Where—
- (a) a person is committed for trial to the Crown Court sitting in Belfast in accordance with subsection (3) or by virtue of subsection (4), and
 - (b) a direction is subsequently given under subsection (1), before the commencement of the trial, altering the place of trial,
- the person is to be treated as having been committed for trial to the Crown Court sitting at the place specified in the direction.