



Prison Act 1952

CHAPTER 52

PRISON ACT 1952

Central administration

- 1 General control over prisons.
- 2
- 3 Officers and servants of Prison Commissioners.
- 4 General duties of Prison Commissioners.
- 5 Annual report of Prison Commissioners.
- 5A Appointment and functions of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Visiting committees and boards of visitors

- 6 Independent monitoring boards

Prison officers

- 7 Prison officers.
- 8 Powers of prison officers.
- 8A Powers of search by authorised persons .
- 9 Exercise of office of chaplain.
- 10 Appointment of prison ministers.
- 11 Ejection of prison officers and their families refusing to quit.

Confinement and treatment of prisoners

- 12 Place of confinement of prisoners.
- 13 Legal custody of prisoner.
- 14 Cells.
- 15
- 16 Photographing and measuring of prisoners.

Changes to legislation: Prison Act 1952 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2023. 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

- 16A Testing prisoners for drugs , psychoactive substances and other substances.
- 16B Power to test prisoners for alcohol.
 - 17 Painful tests.
 - 18
 - 19 Right of justice to visit prison.
 - 20
 - 21 Expenses of conveyance to prison.
 - 22 Removal of prisoners for judicial and other purposes.
 - 23 Power of constable etc. to act outside his jurisdiction.

Length of sentence, release on licence and temporary discharge

- 24 Calculation of term of sentence.
- 25 †Remission for good conduct and release on licence of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment.
- 26, 27
- 28 Power of Secretary of State to discharge prisoners temporarily on account of ill health.

Discharged prisoners

- 29
- 30 Payments for discharged prisoners.

Provision, maintenance and closing of prisons

- 33 Power to provide prisons, etc.
- 34 Jurisdiction of sheriff, etc.
- 35 Prison property.
- 36 Acquisition of land for prisons.
- 37 Closing of prisons.
- 38

Offences

- 39 Assisting a prisoner to escape
- 40A Sections 40B and 40C: classification of articles
- 40B Conveyance etc. of List A articles into or out of prison
- 40C Conveyance etc. of List B or C articles into or out of prison
- 40CA Unauthorised possession in prison of knife or offensive weapon
- 40CB Throwing articles into prison
- 40D Other offences relating to prison security
- 40E Section 40D: meaning of “authorisation” and other interpretation
- 40F Offences under sections 40B to 40D: extension of Crown immunity
- 41 Unlawful introduction of other articles.
- 42 Display of notice of penalties.

Disposal of property

- 42A Disposal of unauthorised or unattributable property

Places for the detention of young offenders etc

- 43 Places for the detention of young offenders etc
- 44—46

Changes to legislation: *Prison Act 1952 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2023. 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*

Rules for the management of prisons and other institutions

- 47 Rules for the management of prisons and places for the detention of young offenders

Miscellaneous

- 48
- 49 Persons unlawfully at large.
- 50 Application of certain provisions to remand homes and attendance centres.

Supplemental

- 51 Payment of expenses out of moneys provided by Parliament.
- 52 Exercise of power to make orders, rules and regulations.
- 53 Interpretation.
- 54 Consequential amendments, repeals and savings.
- 55 Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE A1 — Further provision about Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons

Delegation of functions

- 1 (1) The Chief Inspector may delegate any of his functions...

Inspection programmes and inspection frameworks

- 2 (1) The Chief Inspector shall from time to time, or...

Inspections by other inspectors of organisations within Chief Inspector's remit

- 3 (1) If— (a) a person or body within sub-paragraph (2)...

Co-operation

- 4 The Chief Inspector shall co-operate with— (a) Her Majesty's Inspectors...

Joint action

- 5 (1) The Chief Inspector may act jointly with another public...

Assistance for other public authorities

- 6 (1) The Chief Inspector may if he thinks it appropriate...

Joint inspection of courts

- 7 (1) The Chief Inspector may inspect any aspect of the...

Changes to legislation: Prison Act 1952 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2023. 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](#)

THIRD SCHEDULE — ...

FOURTH SCHEDULE — ...

Changes to legislation:

Prison Act 1952 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 May 2023. 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 :

- s. 13(2) by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 8
- s. 37 by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 8
- s. 37(4) by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 9
- s. 43 by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 8
- s. 43(1) by 2000 c. 43 s. 59
- s. 43(2)(3)(4)(7) by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 10(a)-(d)
- s. 47 by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 8
- s. 47(1)(5) by 2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 11
- s. 47(1) words omitted by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(1)
- s. 55 amended by 1999 c. 33 Sch. 14 para. 33

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. 47(1A) inserted by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(2)
- s. 47(1A) modified (temp.) by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(10)
- s. 47(1A) modified (temp.) by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(11)(a)
- s. 47(1A)(a) words inserted by 2015 c. 2 Sch. 9 para. 3(3)
- s. 47(6) inserted by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(3)
- s. 47A inserted by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(4)
- s. 47A modified (temp.) by 2012 c. 10 s. 129(11)(b)
- s. 55(4A) repealed by 2006 c. 13 s. 46(2)(a)Sch. 3