
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 1341

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

PART VI

QUESTIONING AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS BY POLICE

Access to legal advice

59.—^{F1}(1) A person arrested and held in custody in a police station or other premises shall be entitled, if he so requests, to consult a solicitor privately at any time.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a request under paragraph (1) and the time at which it was made shall be recorded in the custody record.

(3) Such a request need not be recorded in the custody record of a person who makes it at a time while he is at a court after being charged with an offence.

(4) If a person makes such a request, he must be permitted to consult a solicitor as soon as is practicable except to the extent that delay is permitted by this Article.

(5) In any case he must be permitted to consult a solicitor within 36 hours from the relevant time, as defined in Article 42(2).

(6) Delay in compliance with a request is only permitted—

- (a) in the case of a person who is in police detention for [^{F2}an indictable offence]; and
- (b) if an officer of at least the rank of superintendent authorises it.

(7) An officer may give an authorisation under paragraph (6) orally or in writing but, if he gives it orally, he shall confirm it in writing as soon as is practicable.

(8) [^{F3}Subject to paragraph (8A)] an officer may only authorise delay where he has reasonable grounds for believing that the exercise of the right conferred by paragraph (1) at the time when the person detained desires to exercise it—

- (a) will lead to interference with or harm to evidence connected with [^{F4}an indictable offence] or interference with or physical injury to other persons; or
- (b) will lead to the alerting of other persons suspected of having committed such an offence but not yet arrested for it; or
- (c) will hinder the recovery of any property obtained as a result of such an offence.

[^{F5}(8A) An officer may also authorise delay where he has reasonable grounds for believing that—

- (a) the person detained for [^{F6}the indictable offence] has benefited from his criminal conduct, and
- (b) the recovery of the value of the property constituting the benefit will be hindered by the exercise of the right conferred by paragraph (1).

Changes to legislation: *The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 59 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 May 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*

(8B) For the purposes of paragraph (8A) the question whether a person has benefited from his criminal conduct is to be decided in accordance with Part 4 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.]

(9) If the delay is authorised—

- (a) the detained person shall be told the reason for it; and
- (b) the reason shall be noted on his custody record.

(10) The duties imposed by paragraph (9) shall be performed as soon as practicable.

(11) There shall be no further delay in permitting the exercise of the right conferred by paragraph (1) once the reason for authorising delay ceases to subsist.

(12) Nothing in this Article applies to a person arrested or detained under the terrorism provisions [F7 or under section 27 of the National Security Act 2023,][F8 or detained under Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019].

F1 mod. by SI 2003/3107

F2 Words in art. 59(6)(a) substituted (1.3.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/288 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(2), **28(2)**

F3 1990 NI 17

F4 Words in art. 59(8)(a) substituted (1.3.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/288 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(2), **28(2)**

F5 2002 c. 29

F6 Words in art. 59(8A)(a) substituted (1.3.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/288 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(2), **28(3)**

F7 Words in art. 59(12) inserted (20.12.2023) by [National Security Act 2023 \(c. 32\)](#), s. 100(1), **Sch. 18 para. 5(4)** (with s. 97); S.I. 2023/1272, reg. 2(f)

F8 Words in art. 59(12) inserted (13.8.2020) by [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 27(2)(d), **Sch. 4 para. 20(4)**; S.I. 2020/792, reg. 2(i)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Art. 59 applied (with modifications) by 1994 c. 33, s. 137D(4)(c) Sch. 7B Pt. 3 (as inserted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 1.3.2018 in so far as not already in operation) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 116(1)(3), 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 16**; S.I. 2018/227, art. 2(f))

C2 Art. 59(1)-(11) applied (with modifications) (1.12.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Application to Revenue and Customs\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2007 \(S.R. 2007/464\)](#), arts. 3-15, **Sch. 1**, Sch. 2

C3 Art. 59(1)-(11) applied (with modifications) (18.5.2009) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Application to the Police Ombudsman\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(S.R. 2009/142\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1**, Sch. 2

Changes to legislation:

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 59 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 May 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 :

- various legislation applied by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 161\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 59 excluded by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 152\(4\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Order applied by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 150\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Order excluded by [2012 c. 9 Sch. 1 para. 7\(5\)](#)
- Order extended by [2003 c. 6 Sch. 4 para. 23A \(as inserted\) by S.I. 2007/912 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 5](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 2A para. 1(4) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 2(2)(c) and word inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 9(4) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 10(5) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 2(2)(b) words substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- art. 62(10)(ab) words substituted in earlier affecting provision [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\)](#), Sch. 2 para. 6(3)(b) by [2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- art. 3(9ZA)(9ZB) inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 12\(5\)](#)
- art. 19(1)(cc) inserted by [S.I. 2007/916 \(N.I.\) art. 18\(2\)](#)
- art. 53(3A)(3B) inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- art. 53(3A) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 15\(4\)](#)
- art. 53(4) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 9\(6\)](#)
- art. 53B inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 3](#)
- art. 56(13A)(b)(iii) and word substituted for word by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 56(13A)(b)(iii) words substituted in earlier affecting provision [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\)](#), Sch. 2 para. 6(1)(b) by [2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- art. 56A(9)(b)(iii) and word substituted for word by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 56A(9)(b)(iii) words substituted in earlier affecting provision [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\)](#), Sch. 2 para. 6(2)(b) by [2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- art. 61(5A) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- art. 61(5A)(b) words substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 61(5B) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(2\)](#)
- art. 61(5B)(b) words substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 61(5C) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 61(6)-(6ZD) substituted for art. 61(6) by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(3\)](#)
- art. 61(6D)-(6G) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 9\(1\)](#)
- art. 61(6BA) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of [2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31\(2\)](#), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 62(2A)(2B) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- art. 62(10)(ab) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 62(10)(ab) words substituted in earlier affecting provision [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\)](#), Sch. 2 para. 6(3)(b) by [2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- art. 63(3A)(c)(i) word substituted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 4](#)

- art. 63(3B)-(3BD) substituted for art. 63(3B) by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(7\)](#)
- art. 63(3C) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 63(3D)-(3G) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 9\(4\)](#)
- art. 63(3AA) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- art. 63(3ZA) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(5\)](#)
- art. 63(3ZA)(b)(iii) and word inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 63A(1E)(1F) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 11\(1\)](#)
- art. 63A(6A) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(4\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 63B-63R inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2](#)
- art. 63D(1)(a) substituted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 63D(1)(a)(i) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63D(14) words inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 63D(14) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63N substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 86](#)
- art. 63R(4A) inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 4 para. 20\(9\)](#)
- art. 63R(4B) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 18 para. 5\(8\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of art. 63R by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.) Sch. 2 remains prospective at 31.12.2023.)
- art. 63R(5) words substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 87\(a\)](#)
- art. 63R(5A)(5B) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 87\(b\)](#)
- art. 63DA inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- art. 63DA heading words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63DA(1)(a) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63DA(4) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63GA inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 84](#)
- art. 63KA inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 85](#)
- art. 64(1AA) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 64(1AB) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 15\(5\)](#)
- art. 89(2A) inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 5](#)