



# Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

## 1984 CHAPTER 60

### PART VIII

#### EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS—GENERAL

##### *Convictions and acquittals*

#### **73 Proof of convictions and acquittals.**

(1) Where in any proceedings the fact that a person has in the United Kingdom <sup>F1</sup>... been convicted or acquitted of an offence otherwise than by a Service court is admissible in evidence, it may be proved by producing a certificate of conviction or, as the case may be, of acquittal relating to that offence, and proving that the person named in the certificate as having been convicted or acquitted of the offence is the person whose conviction or acquittal of the offence is to be proved.

(2) For the purposes of this section a certificate of conviction or of acquittal—

(a) shall, as regards a conviction or acquittal on indictment, consist of a certificate, signed by the [<sup>F2</sup>proper officer] of the court where the conviction or acquittal took place, giving the substance and effect (omitting the formal parts) of the indictment and of the conviction or acquittal; and

(b) shall, as regards a conviction or acquittal on a summary trial, consist of a copy of the conviction or of the dismissal of the information, signed by the [<sup>F2</sup>proper officer] of the court where the conviction or acquittal took place or by the [<sup>F2</sup>proper officer] of the court, if any, to which a memorandum of the conviction or acquittal was sent; <sup>F3</sup>...

<sup>F3</sup>(c) .....

and a document purporting to be a duly signed certificate of conviction or acquittal under this section shall be taken to be such a certificate unless the contrary is proved.

[<sup>F4</sup>(3) In subsection (2) above “proper officer” means—

(a) in relation to a magistrates’ court in England and Wales, the [<sup>F5</sup>designated officer] for the court; and

---

**Changes to legislation:** *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 73 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*

---

(b) in relation to any other court<sup>F6</sup>..., the clerk of the court, his deputy or any other person having custody of the court record,<sup>F7</sup>...

<sup>F7</sup>(c) .....]

(4) The method of proving a conviction or acquittal authorised by this section shall be in addition to and not to the exclusion of any other authorised manner of proving a conviction or acquittal.

#### **Extent Information**

**E1** S. 73 extends to England and Wales only with exceptions as regards courts martial, see s. 120(1)(6)-(8)

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words in s. 73(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Criminal Justice \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/780\)](#), regs. 1(1), **29(2)(a)** (with reg. 31) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1520, regs. 1(1), 7); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

**F2** Words in s. 73(2)(a)(b) substituted (1.4.2001) by 1999 c. 22, s. 90, **Sch. 13 para. 128(1)(2)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 2001/916, **art. 2**

**F3** S. 73(2)(c) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Criminal Justice \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/780\)](#), regs. 1(1), **29(2)(b)** (with reg. 31) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1520, regs. 1(1), 7); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

**F4** S. 73(3) substituted (1.4.2001) by 1999 c. 22, ss. 90, **Sch. 13 para. 128(1)(3)** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 2001/916, **art. 2**

**F5** Words in s. 73(3)(a) substituted (1.4.2005) by [Courts Act 2003 \(c. 39\)](#), ss. 109(1), 110, Sch. 8 para. 285; S.I. 2005/910, **art. 3(y)**

**F6** Words in s. 73(3)(b) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Criminal Justice \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/780\)](#), regs. 1(1), **29(2)(c)(i)** (with reg. 31) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1520, regs. 1(1), 7); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

**F7** S. 73(3)(c) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Criminal Justice \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/780\)](#), regs. 1(1), **29(2)(c)(ii)** (with reg. 31) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1520, regs. 1(1), 7); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

**Changes to legislation:**

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 73 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**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. 17(1)(cza) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 26\(9\)](#)
- s. 47A(3A) substituted by [2022 c. 35 Sch. 2 para. 7](#)
- s. 61(6BA) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 10\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 10 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- s. 63(3D) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 10\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 10 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- s. 64(1AA) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 10\(4\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 10 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- s. 64A(1B)(cb) inserted by [2022 c. 32 Sch. 11 para. 18\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1A para. 21A added by 1995 c. 32, s. 8B(1) (as inserted) by [2006 c. 12 Sch. 3 para. 13](#)