



# Police Act 1996

## CHAPTER 16

### POLICE ACT 1996

#### PART I

##### ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCES

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...

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- 3 Establishment of police authorities.
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- 16 Appointment of chief executive.
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- 23HA Decisions about efficiency or effectiveness
- 23I Collaboration agreements: definitions
- 24 Aid of one police force by another.
- 25 Provision of special services.
- 26 Provision of advice and assistance to international organisations etc.
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- 28 Police cadets.
- 29 Attestation of constables.
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**Changes to legislation:** Police Act 1996 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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

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66 The Police Complaints Authority.

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*Police advisory list*

- 88I Duty to report resignations and retirements etc to College of Policing
- 88J Duty to maintain police advisory list
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*England (except London)*

*Wales*

SCHEDULE 2 — Police authorities established under section 3

*Membership of police authorities*

- 1 (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulations make provision...

*Appointment of councillor members*

- 2 Regulations under paragraph 1 shall provide that—

*Appointment of other members*

- 3 (1) Regulations under paragraph 1 shall provide that the members...

*Chairman and vice chairmen*

- 4 (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulations provide that—...

*Standards committees*

- 5 The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as...

*Consultation*

- 6 Before making regulations under this Schedule the Secretary of State...

*Supplementary*

- 7 (1) Regulations under this Schedule may make different provision for...

*Interpretation*

- 8 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule a council is...  
9 In this Schedule “lay justice” has the meaning...

SCHEDULE 2A — The Metropolitan police authority

*Membership of Authority*

- 1 (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulations make provision...

*Appointment of members from London Assembly etc*

- 2 Regulations under paragraph 1 shall provide that the members falling...

*Appointment of other members*

- 3 (1) Regulations under paragraph 1 shall provide that—

*Chairman and vice chairmen*

- 4 (1) The Secretary of State shall by regulations provide that—...

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*Standards committees*

- 5 The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as...

*Consultation*

- 6 Before making any regulations under this Schedule, the Secretary of...

*Supplementary*

- 7 (1) Regulations under this Schedule may make transitional, consequential, incidental...

*Interpretation*

- 8 In this Schedule “lay justice” has the meaning...

SCHEDULE 3 — Police authorities: selection of independent members

*Selection panels*

- 1 (1) There shall be a selection panel  
 2 A person shall be disqualified for being appointed as or...  
 3 (1) A person shall be appointed to hold office as...  
 4 A member of a selection panel may be removed from...  
 5 A person who ceases to be a member of a...  
 6 (1) The acts and proceedings of any person appointed to...  
 7 (1) A police authority shall make to members of the...

*Functions of selection panel*

- 8 (1) Where appointments to a police authority are to be...  
 9 A person shall not be nominated under paragraph 8 in...  
 10 In exercising their functions a selection panel shall have regard...  
 11 (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations as to—...

*Secretary of State’s short-list*

- 12 (1) Where the Secretary of State receives a notice under...  
 13 (1) This paragraph has effect where the number of persons...  
 14 The Secretary of State shall give to the designated members...

SCHEDULE 3A — Police authorities: selection of lay justice members

*Lay justice selection panels*

- 1 (1) There shall be a selection panel—

*Lay justice selection panels*

- 2 A person shall be disqualified for being appointed as or...

*Lay justice selection panels*

- 3 Paragraphs 3 to 7 of Schedule 3 apply in relation...



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*Functions of lay justice selection panels*

- 4 (1) Where appointments of lay justices to a police authority...

*Functions of lay justice selection panels*

- 5 (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations as to—...

*Procedure if too few candidates short-listed*

- 6 (1) This paragraph applies where the number of persons on...

SCHEDULE 4 — Form of Declaration

SCHEDULE 4A — Further provision about Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary

*Delegation of functions*

- 1 (1) An inspector of constabulary may delegate any of his...

*Inspection programmes and inspection frameworks*

- 2 (1) The chief inspector of constabulary shall from time to...

*Inspections by other inspectors of organisations within remit of inspectors of constabulary*

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

*Co-operation*

- 4 The inspectors of constabulary shall co-operate with—

*Joint action*

- 5 (1) The inspectors of constabulary may act jointly with another...

*Assistance for other public authorities*

- 6 (1) The chief inspector of constabulary may if he thinks...

*Powers of inspectors to obtain information etc*

- 6A (1) An inspector may serve on a person a notice...

*Powers of inspectors to obtain access to police premises*

- 6B (1) An inspector may serve on a person a notice...

*Failure to comply with notice under paragraph 6A or 6B*

- 6C (1) If a person who has received a notice under...

*Appeals against notices under paragraph 6A*

- 6D (1) A person on whom a notice is served under...

*Sensitive information: restriction on further disclosure*

- 6E (1) Where an inspector receives information within sub-paragraph (2), the...

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*Provision of sensitive information to inspectors*

6F (1) A person who provides information that is intelligence service...

*Orders under this Schedule*

7 A statutory instrument containing an order under this Schedule shall...

SCHEDULE 4B — The Police Remuneration Review Body

*Interpretation*

1 In this Schedule “ review body ” means the Police...

*Members of the review body*

2 The Secretary of State shall determine how many members the...

3 Members shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the...

4 Members shall adhere to any statement of principles issued by...

*Resignation of members*

5 (1) The chair of the review body may resign by...

6 (1) The deputy chair of the review body may resign...

7 A member other than the chair or deputy chair may...

*Dismissal of members*

8 (1) The Prime Minister may by written notice dismiss the...

9 (1) The Secretary of State may by written notice dismiss...

10 The Secretary of State may by written notice dismiss a...

*Procedure*

11 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the review body shall determine...

*Matters to be considered*

12 The Secretary of State may give directions to the review...

*Consultation*

13 (1) The Secretary of State shall consult with the persons...

*Publication*

14 The Secretary of State shall arrange for the publication of—...

*Money*

15 The Secretary of State or the Department of Justice in...

SCHEDULE 5 — The Police Complaints Authority

*Constitution of Authority*

1 The Police Complaints Authority

*Status of Authority*

- 2 The Police Complaints Authority

*Members*

- 3 The Police Complaints Authority  
4 The Police Complaints Authority  
5 The Police Complaints Authority

*Staff*

- 6 The Police Complaints Authority  
7 The Police Complaints Authority  
8 The Police Complaints Authority

*Power of Authority to set up regional offices*

- 9 The Police Complaints Authority

*Proceedings*

- 10 The Police Complaints Authority  
11 The Police Complaints Authority

*Finance*

- 12 The Police Complaints Authority  
13 The Police Complaints Authority

SCHEDULE 6 — Appeals to police appeals tribunals

*Police appeals tribunals*

- 1 (1) In the case of an appeal by a senior...  
2 (1) In the case of an appeal by a person...  
2A (1) For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, “...

*Notice of appeal*

- 3 An appeal shall be instituted by giving notice of appeal...

*Respondent*

- 4 On any appeal the respondent shall be such person as...

*Casting vote*

- 5 Where there is an equality of voting among the members...

*Hearing*

- 6 (1) A police appeals tribunal may determine a case without...

*Effect of orders*

- 7 (1) Where on the determination of an appeal the tribunal...

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*Remuneration and expenses*

8 Members of a police appeals tribunal shall be—

*Costs*

9 (1) An appellant shall pay the whole of his own...

*Interpretation*

10 In this Schedule— (a) “senior officer” means a member of...

SCHEDULE 7 — Consequential amendments

Part I — REFERENCES TO POLICE AUTHORITIES ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 3 OF POLICE ACT 1964

1 (1) In the provisions referred to in sub-paragraph (2), for...

Part II — OTHER CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

*Pedlars Act 1871 (c. 96)*

- 2 In section 5 of the Pedlars Act 1871, in paragraph...
- 3 In section 8 of that Act— (a) for “police district”...
- 4 In section 9 of that Act for “police district”, in...
- 5 In section 21 of that Act for “district” there shall...
- 6 In Schedule 2 to that Act for “police district” in...

*Parks Regulation Act 1872 (c. 15)*

- 7 In section 7 of the Parks Regulation Act 1872 for...
- 8 In section 8 of that Act for “of the district”...

*Riot (Damages) Act 1886 (c. 38)*

- 9 In section 2(1) of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886—
- 10 In section 3 of that Act— (a) in subsection (1)...
- 11 In section 9 of that Act— (a) for “police district”...

*Local Government Act 1958 (c. 55)*

12 In section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1958 after...

*Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1967 (c. 28)*

13 (1) Section 13 of the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1967...

*Police (Scotland) Act 1967 (c. 77)*

- 14 (1) Section 26 of the Police (Scotland) Act 1967 shall...
- 15 In section 39(4) of that Act, for “or section 141...

*Firearms Act 1968 (c. 27)*

16 In Schedule 1 to the Firearms Act 1968, in paragraph...

*Police Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 (c. 9 (N.I.))*

17 .....

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*Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 (c. 56)*

18 (1) Schedule 2 to the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 shall...

*Superannuation Act 1972 (c. 11)*

19 In section 15(5)(b) of the Superannuation Act 1972 for “section...  
20 Schedule 1 to that Act shall continue to have effect...

*Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70)*

21 In section 94(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 for...

*Overseas Pensions Act 1973 (c. 21)*

22 In section 2(2)(d)(i) of the Overseas Pensions Act 1973 for...

*Juries Act 1974 (c. 23)*

23 In Schedule 1 to the Juries Act 1974, in Part...

*House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 24)*

24 In section 1(3) of the House of Commons Disqualification Act...

*Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 25)*

25 In section 1(2) of the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act...

*Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (c. 51)*

26 In Schedule 3 to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act...

*Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65)*

27 (1) Section 17 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 shall...

*Police Pensions Act 1976 (c.35)*

28 Section 1(1) of the Police Pensions Act 1976 shall continue...  
29 (1) Section 7(2) of that Act shall be amended as...  
30 (1) Section 11 of that Act (interpretation) shall be amended...

*Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74)*

31 .....

*Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30)*

32 In Schedule 1 to the Interpretation Act 1978 (words and...

*Finance Act 1981 (c. 35)*

33 In section 107(3)(k) of the Finance Act 1981 for “section...

*Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60)*

34 In section 5(1) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act...  
35 In section 50(2) of that Act for paragraph (a) there...  
36 In section 55(14) of that Act for paragraph (a) there...

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- 37 In section 64(6B) of that Act— (a) the definition of...  
38 In section 77(3) of that Act, in the definition of...

*Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (c. 23)*

- 39 In section 3(3) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985,...

*Housing Act 1985 (c. 68)*

- 40 In Schedule 1 to the Housing Act 1985, in paragraph...

*Ministry of Defence Police Act 1987 (c. 4)*

- 41 In section 1(2)(a) of the Ministry of Defence Police Act...

*Football Spectators Act 1989 (c. 37)*

- 42 .....

*Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 (c. 31)*

- 43 In section 22(4)(b)(i) of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act...

*Local Government Act 1992 (c. 19)*

- 44 In section 17(6) of the Local Government Act 1992 for...

*Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (c. 53)*

- 45 In section 7 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992, ...  
46 In Schedule 1 to that Act, in Part I, after...

*Criminal Appeal Act 1995 (c.35)*

- 47 In section 22(2)(c) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 for...

SCHEDULE 8 — Transitional provisions, savings etc.  
Part I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Continuity of the law*

- 1 (1) The repeal (or revocation) and re-enactment of provisions in...

*General saving for old transitional provisions and savings*

- 2 The repeal by this Act of any provision of Part...  
3 The repeal by this Act of an enactment previously repealed...

*Use of existing forms, etc.*

- 4 Any reference to an enactment repealed by this Act which...

Part II — PROVISIONS RELATING TO PARTICULAR ENACTMENTS

*Pedlars Act 1871*

- 5 Any reference to a police district contained in—

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*Savings relating to the Police Act 1964*

- 6 Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of subsection (4) of...
- 7 Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of subsection (4) of...

*Saving for transitional provisions under the Police and Magistrates' Courts Act 1994*

- 8 Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 1(4) above, any...

*Police areas*

- 9 For the period beginning with the commencement of Schedule 1...
- 10 Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of sections 21A and...

Part III — PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

*Modification of enactments pending commencement of new discipline procedures*

- 11 (1) Until such day as the Secretary of State may...

*Modification of section 81*

- 12 Until such day as the Lord Chancellor may appoint under...

*Saving for complaints procedures established for other bodies of constables*

- 13 The coming into force of any provision of Part IV...

SCHEDULE 9 — Repeals and revocations

Part I — REPEALS: GENERAL

Part II — REPEALS CONSEQUENTIAL ON NEW DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

Part III — REVOCATIONS

— TABLE OF DERIVATIONS

- 1 Notes:
- 2 The following abbreviations are used in the Table:— 1964 =...

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[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 84(2) words substituted by [2007 c. 29 Sch. 21 para. 119\(a\)](#) (This amendment is not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 21 para. 119 repealed (1.12.2008) without ever being in force by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 149, 153, Sch. 28 Pt. 8; S.I. 2008/2993, art. 2(1)(k)(iii) (subject to art. 3))
- s. 84(6) words substituted by [2007 c. 29 Sch. 21 para. 119\(b\)](#) (This amendment is not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 21 para. 119 repealed (1.12.2008) without ever being in force by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 149, 153, Sch. 28 Pt. 8; S.I. 2008/2993, art. 2(1)(k)(iii) (subject to art. 3))
- s. 89(2) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 47](#)
- s. 97(6)(b) words repealed by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 22 para. 10\(2\)\(a\)](#) Sch. 28 Pt. 8
- s. 97(6)(c) words repealed by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 22 para. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#) Sch. 28 Pt. 8
- s. 97(7) words repealed by [2008 c. 4 Sch. 22 para. 10\(3\)](#) Sch. 28 Pt. 8
- Sch. 1 amended by [1997 c. 50 s. 129](#)
- Sch. 2 savings for effects of [2003 c. 39, Sch. 8 paras. 373, 374](#) by [S.I. 2005/911 art. 7](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 11 words substituted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 16 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2A para. 7(1) words substituted by [2007 c. 15 Sch. 16 para. 9\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 1(2)(h)21 by [2000 c. 22 Sch. 6](#)

**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. 53B-53D and cross-heading inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(1) omitted (16.1.2012) without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)
- s. 53B(3)(c) words substituted by [2017 c. 3 Sch. 14 para. 67\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 53B was never inserted as the amending provision (2009 c. 26, s. 2(1)) was omitted without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)
- s. 53B(6)(b) words substituted by [2017 c. 3 Sch. 14 para. 67\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 53B was never inserted as the amending provision (2009 c. 26, s. 2(1)) was omitted without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)