STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. 731 (C. 33)

CRIMINAL LAW, ENGLAND AND WALES

TRIBUNALS AND INQUIRIES

The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations 2025

Made - - - - 19th June 2025

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the power conferred by section 81(2) of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024(**a**).

Citation and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations 2025.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

Provisions coming into force on 25th June 2025

2. The following provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 come into force on 25th June 2025—

(a) Section 21 (victim impact statements to mental health tribunals (restricted patients));

(b) Section 34(6)(a) and (7) (meaning of "major incident" etc);

(c) Section 35 (appointment of standing advocate);

(d) Section 36(3)(a) (appointment of advocates in respect of major incidents);

(e) The remainder of section 40 (role of advocates under Part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009);

(f) Section 41(1), (2), (6)(b) and (7)(b) (reports to the Secretary of State);

(g) Section 42(1)(a) (publication of reports);

(h) Section 43(a) (information sharing and data protection).

(**a**) 2024 c. 21.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State

Alex Davies-Jones
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice

19th June 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations bring into force certain provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21) ("the 2024 Act") on 25th June 2025. These are the seventh commencement Regulations made under the 2024 Act.

Regulation 2(a) brings into force section 21 from Part 1 of the 2024 Act (victims of criminal conduct). Section 21 introduces entitlements for certain victims of offenders subject to hospital orders with restriction orders (pursuant to sections 37 and 41 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (c. 20)) to make a victim impact statement to the First-tier Tribunal (Mental Health) or the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales ("the Tribunal"); and, where a tribunal hearing is due to take place and the victim has applied to attend the hearing to read their statement, to have that application granted by the Tribunal unless there are good reasons not to. The entitlements are introduced by way of insertion of a new section 37ZA into the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (c. 28) ("the 2004 Act") and will apply to victims of offenders convicted of a sexual, violent or terrorism offence. Pursuant to new section 37ZA(4), the Tribunal may have regard to the statement when deciding what discharge conditions to impose on the offender, but must not have regard to it in relation to any other matter, for example, the discharge decision itself.

The new entitlements will apply where an application or reference listed in section 37(5) of the 2004 Act is made to the Tribunal. These entitlements will apply to applications or references made to the Tribunal on or after the day on which section 21 comes into force (25th June 2025).

Regulations 2(b) to (h) bring into force provisions from Part 2 of the 2024 Act (victims of major incidents) that relate to the appointment and functions of the standing advocate. The standing advocate will be a permanent advocate for victims of major incidents and will advise the Secretary of State on their interests and the response of public authorities. The advocate will report annually on the exercise of its functions in that year, and may also report at the request of the Secretary of State or at their own discretion on matters relating to a major incident to which they have been appointed.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant impact, on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The following provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 have been brought into force by commencement Regulations made before the date of these Regulations.

Provision	***Date of Commencement***	***S.I. No.***
Section 68	17th June 2024	2024/755
Section 75 (partially)	2nd August 2024	2024/846
Section 76 (partially)	2nd August 2024	2024/846
Section 34 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 36 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 37	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 38	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 39	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 40 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 41 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 42 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 43 (partially)	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 44	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 45	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 47	18th September 2024	2024/966
Section 66 (partially)	1st November 2024	2024/966
Section 67	1st November 2024	2024/966
Section 1	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 2 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 5	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 22 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 23 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 24 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 25 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 26 (partially)	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 27	29th January 2025	2025/95
Section 66 (remainder)	1st February 2025	2024/966
Section 58 (partially)	3rd February 2025	2025/95
Section 59 (partially)	3rd February 2025	2025/95
Section 65	3rd February 2025	2025/95
Section 74	3rd February 2025	2025/95
Section 60 (partially)	3rd April 2025	2025/441
Schedule 2	3rd April 2025	2025/441
Section 16	9th May 2025	2025/441
Section 75 (remainder)	27th May 2025	2025/441
Section 76 (remainder)	27th May 2025	2025/441
Section 17 (partially)	1st June 2025	2025/616
Section 17 (remainder)	1st October 2025	2025/616

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