STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. 1325 (C. 71)

CRIMINAL LAW, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (Commencement No. 9) Regulations 2025

Made - - - -	*15th December 2025*
Coming into force - -	*31st December 2025*

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers 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. 9) Regulations 2025.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

Provisions coming into force on 31st December 2025

2. The following provisions of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 come into force on 31st December 2025—

(a) Section 23(3) (His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons);

(b) Section 24(3) (His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary);

(c) Section 25(3) (His Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service);

(d) Section 26(3) (His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation for England and Wales);

(e) Section 61 (referral of release decisions: life prisoners);

(f) Section 62 (referral of release decisions: fixed-term prisoners);

(g) Section 63 (licence conditions of life prisoners released following referral);

(h) Section 64 (licence conditions of fixed-term prisoners released following referral).

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

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Levitt
Minister of State
Ministry of Justice

15th December 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations bring into force sections 23(3), 24(3), 25(3), 26(3) and sections 61 to 64 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (c. 21) ("the 2024 Act"). These are the ninth commencement regulations made under the 2024 Act.

Sections 23(3), 24(3), 25(3) and 26(3) of the 2024 Act make amendments in respect of joint inspection programmes (inspection programmes delivered by 2 or more of HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Probation). The amendments empower the Secretary of State, Lord Chancellor and Attorney General together to direct that provision is included within such programmes for inspections, at specified times, of specified matters relating to the experiences and treatment of victims.

Sections 61 and 62 amend the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 (c. 43) ("the 1997 Act") and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (c. 44) ("the 2003 Act") in relation to life prisoners and fixed-term prisoners respectively. The amendments make provision for the Secretary of State to direct the Parole Board to refer certain release decisions it has made to the High Court. The High Court will then make a fresh decision on whether the statutory release test has been met and either direct the Secretary of State to give effect to the Parole Board's release direction, or quash it. Sections 63 and 64 amend the 1997 Act and the 2003 Act respectively to specify that the Secretary of State is responsible for including licence conditions set by the High Court in a referral case. The provisions also confer the power on the Secretary of State to subsequently vary or cancel those conditions.

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
Section 21	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 34 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 35	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 36 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 40 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 41 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 42 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 43 (remainder)	25th June 2025	2025/731
Section 20 (partially)	7th November 2025	2025/1168
Section 28	12th January 2026	2025/1168
Section 29	12th January 2026	2025/1168
Section 30	12th January 2026	2025/1168

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