

Neutral Citation Number: [2013] EWCA Crim 2328

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL (CRIMINAL DIVISION)

Royal Courts of Justice Strand, London, WC2A 2LL

Date: 10/12/2013

Before :

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Criminal Practice Directions Amendment No. 1



AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CRIMINAL PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

This Practice Direction amends CPD General matters A, CPD General matters 5B, CPD Custody and bail 19C, CPD Sentencing F, CPD General application B of, and adds a new Practice Direction, a table of content and additional paragraph numbering to the Criminal Practice Directions which were handed down by the Lord Chief Justice on 3rd October 2013 and came into force on 7th October 2013.

It sets out:

- (a) a table of content;
- (b) additional paragraph numbering, for clarity;
- (c) an amendment to clarify the status of the Supreme Court Practice Direction on Devolution;
- (d) an amendment to clarify the legislation referred to in CPD General matters 5B: Access to information held by the Court;
- (e) an amendment to reflect correctly the SGC guidance on sentencing for Bail Act offences;
- (f) an amendment to create a presumption that Victim Personal Statements will be read to the court if the victim so requests, subject to judicial discretion;
- (g) an amendment to the mode of address for a Senior Circuit judge who is an Honorary Recorder;
- (h) a new Practice Direction to be included on Impact Statements for Businesses.

These amendments shall come into force with effect from 10th December 2013.

Table of Content

The following table of content shall be inserted at the beginning of the Practice Directions, before the heading 'General matters':

Table of Content

CPD	Division	CPD ref	Title of CPD, if applicable
CPD	I General matters	A	

CDD		1.4	
CPD	I General matters	1A	
CPD	I General matters	3A	Case management
CPD	I General matters	3B	Pagination and indexing of served evidence
CPD	I General matters	3C	Abuse of process stay applications
CPD	I General matters	3D	Vulnerable people in the Courts
CPD	I General matters	3E	Ground rules hearings to plan the questioning
			of a vulnerable witness or defendant
CPD	I General matters	3F	Intermediaries
CPD	I General matters	3G	Vulnerable defendants
CPD	I General matters	3H	Wales and the Welsh Language: Devolution
			issues
CPD	I General matters	3J	Wales and the Welsh Language: Applications
OLD			for evidence to be given in Welsh
CPD	I General matters	3K	Wales and the Welsh Language: Use of the
	I General matters	31	Wales and the Weish Language. Use of the Welsh Language in Courts in Wales
CPD	I General matters	5A	Forms
CPD	I General matters	5B	Access to information held by the Court
CPD	II Preliminary	6A	Investigation orders and warrants
CDD	proceedings	0.1	
CPD	II Preliminary	9A	Allocation (mode of trial)
	proceedings		
CPD	II Preliminary	10A	Defendant's record
	proceedings		
CPD	II Preliminary	14A	Settling the indictment
	proceedings		
CPD	II Preliminary	14B	Voluntary bills of indictment
	proceedings		
CPD	II Preliminary	16A	Unofficial sound recording of proceedings
	proceedings		
CPD	II Preliminary	16B	Restrictions on reporting proceedings
	proceedings		
CPS	III Custody and bail	19A	Bail before sending for trial
CPD	III Custody and bail	19B	Bail: Failure to surrender and trials in
			absence
CPD	III Custody and bail	19C	Penalties for failure to surrender
CPD	III Custody and bail	19D	Relationship between the Bail Act offence
	in Custouy and ball		and further remands on bail or in custody
CPD	III Custody and bail	19E	Trials in absence
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CPD	III Custody and bail	19F	Forfeiture of monies lodged as security or
			pledged by a surety/estreatment of
CDD	III Care (1 - 11 - 11	100	recognizances
CPD	III Custody and bail	19G	Bail during trial
CPD	III Custody and bail	19H	Crown Court judge's certification of fitness
			to appeal and applications to the Crown Court
			for bail pending appeal
CPD	IV Disclosure	22A	Disclosure of unused material
CPD	V Evidence	27A	Evidence by written statement
CPD	V Evidence	27B	Video recorded evidence in chief
CPD	V Evidence	27C	Evidence of audio and video recorded

			interveiws
CPD	V Evidence	28A	Wards of Court and children subject to
			current Family proceedings
CPD	V Evidence	29A	Measures to assist a witness or defendant to
			give evidence
CPD	V Evidence	29B	Witnesses giving evidence by live link
CPD	V Evidence	29C	Visually recorded interviews: memory
			refreshing and watching at a different time
			from the jury
CPD	V Evidence	29D	Witness anonymity orders
CPD	V Evidence	35A	Spent convictions
CPD	VI Trial	37A	Role of the justices' clerk/legal adviser
CPD	VI Trial	39A	Juries: introduction
CPD	VI Trial	39B	Juries: preliminary matters arising before jury
			service commences
CPD	VI Trial	39C	Juries: eligibility
CPD	VI Trial	39D	Juries: precautionary measures before
			swearing
CPD	VI Trial	39E	Juries: swearing in jurors
CPD	VI Trial	39F	Juries: ensuring an effective jury panel
CPD	VI Trial	39G	Juries: preliminary instructions to jurors
CPD	VI Trial	39H	Juries: discharge of a juror for personal
000		0 0 T	reasons
CPD	VI Trial	39J	Juries: views
CPD	VI Trial	39K	Juries: directions to jury before retirement
CPD	VI Trial	39L	Juries: jury access to exhibits and evidence in
CDD	VI Trial	2014	retirement
CPD		39M	Jury Irregularities
CPD CPD	VI Trial VI Trial	39N 39P	Open justice Defendant's right to give or not to give
CPD	vi inai	39P	evidence
CPD	VI Trial	39Q	Majority verdicts
CPD	VII Sentencing	A 370	Pleas of guilty in the Crown Court
CPD	VII Sentencing	B	Determining the factual basis of sentence
CPD	VII Sentencing	C	Indications of sentence: <i>R v Goodyear</i>
CPD	VII Sentencing	D	Facts to be stated on pleas of guilty
CPD	VII Sentencing	E	Concurrent and consecutive sentences
CPD	VII Sentencing	F	Victim Personal Statements
CPD	VII Sentencing	G	Families bereaved by homicide and other
	Senteneing		criminal conduct
CPD	VII Sentencing	Н	Community Impact Statements
CPD	VII Sentencing	I	
CPD	VII Sentencing	J	Binding over orders and conditional
			discharges
CPD	VII Sentencing	K	Committal for sentence
CPD	VII Sentencing	L	Imposition of life sentences
CPD	VII Sentencing	М	Mandatory life sentences
CPD	VII Sentencing	Ν	Transitional arrangements for sentences
			where the offence was committed before 18

			December 2003
CPD	VII Sentencing	Р	Procedure for announcing the minimum term
			in open court
CPD	IX Contempt of court	62A	Contempt in the face of the magistrates' court
CPD	X Appeal	63A	Appeals to the Crown Court
CPD	X Appeal	68A	Appeals against conviction and sentence –
			the provision of notice to the prosecution
CPD	X Appeal	68B	Listing of appeals against conviction and
			sentence in the Court of Appeal Criminal
			Division (CACD)
CPD	X Appeal	68C	Appeal notices containing grounds of appeal
CPD	X Appeal	68D	Respondents' notices
CPD	X Appeal	68E	Loss of time
CPD	X Appeal	68F	Skeleton arguments
CPD	X Appeal	68G	Criminal Appeal Office summaries
CPD	X Appeal	75A	References to the European Court of Justice
CPD	XI Costs		
CPD	XII General	Α	Court dress
	application		
CPD	XII General	В	Modes of address and titles of judges and
	application		magistrates
CPD	XII General	C	Availability of judgments given in the Court
	application		of Appeal and the High Court
CPD	XII General	D	Citation of authority and provision of copies
	application		of judgments to the Court
CPD	XII General	E	Preparation of judgments: neutral citation
	application		
CPD	XII General	F	Citation of Hansard
	application		

Paragraph numbering

The paragraph nomenclature for each Practice Direction shall be augmented by the addition of a Roman numeral to each division within the Practice Directions. (The divisions correspond in most part with those in the Criminal Procedure Rules.) The divisions shall be numbered as follows:

- I General matters
- II Preliminary proceedings
- III Custody and bail
- IV Disclosure
- V Evidence
- VI Trial
- VII Sentencing
- VIII Confiscation and related proceedings
- IX Contempt of court
- X Appeal
- XI Costs

XII General application XIII Listing

By way of example, CPD Sentencing A: Pleas of guilty in the Crown Court should now be cited as 'CPD VII Sentencing A: Pleas of guilty in the Crown Court', and may be abbreviated to 'CPD VII A'.

CPD I General matters A

For paragraph 2 of CPD I General matters A substitute:

A.2 These Practice Directions replace the Consolidated Criminal Practice Direction of 8 July 2002 ([2002] 1 W.L.R. 2870; [2002] 2 Cr. App. R. 35), as amended, which is hereby revoked, with the exception of sections III.21, IV.31, IV.32, IV.33, IV.38 and IV.41.9. The Practice Directions, Practice Notes and Practice Statements listed in Annex A and Annex B of the 2002 consolidation, with the exception of Practice Direction: (Supreme Court) (Devolution Issues) [1999] 1 WLR 1592; [1999] 3 All ER 466; [1999] 2 Cr App R 486, are also revoked. Annexes D, E and F remain in force.

CPD I General matters 5B: Access to information held by the Court

For paragraph 11 of CPD I General matters 5B substitute:

5B.11 Documents likely to fall into this category are:

- i. Opening notes
- ii. Statements agreed under section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967, including experts' reports, if read in their entirety
- iii. Admissions made under section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

CPD III Custody and bail 19C: Sentencing for a Bail Act offence

For paragraphs 9 and 10 of CPD III Custody and bail 19C substitute:

- 19C.9 A defendant who commits an offence under section 6(1) or section 6(2) of the Bail Act 1976 commits an offence that stands apart from the proceedings in respect of which bail was granted. The seriousness of the offence can be reflected by an appropriate and generally separate penalty being imposed for the Bail Act offence.
- 19C.10As noted above, there is a sentencing guideline on sentencing offenders for Bail Act offences and this must be followed unless it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so. Where the appropriate penalty is a custodial sentence, consecutive sentences

should be imposed unless there are circumstances that make this inappropriate.

CPD VII Sentencing F: Victim Personal Statements

For CPD VII Sentencing F substitute:

- F.1 Victims of crime are invited to make a statement, known as a Victim Personal Statement ('VPS'). The statement gives victims a formal opportunity to say how a crime has affected them. It may help to identify whether they have a particular need for information, support and protection. The court will take the statement into account when determining sentence. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for relatives of a victim to make a VPS, for example where the victim has died as a result of the relevant criminal conduct. The revised Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, published on 29 October 2013 gives further information about victims' entitlements within the criminal justice system, and the duties placed on criminal justice agencies when dealing with victims of crime.
- F.2 When a police officer takes a statement from a victim, the victim should be told about the scheme and given the chance to make a VPS. The decision about whether or not to make a VPS is entirely a matter for the victim; no pressure should be brought to bear on their decision, and no conclusion should be drawn if they choose not to make such a statement. A VPS or a further VPS may be made (in proper s.9 form, see below) at any time prior to the disposal of the case. It will not normally be appropriate for a VPS to be made after the disposal of the case; there may be rare occasions between sentence and appeal when a further VPS may be necessary, for example, when the victim was injured and the final prognosis was not available at the date of sentence. However, VPS after disposal should be confined to presenting up to date factual material, such as medical information, and should be used sparingly.
- F.3 If the court is presented with a VPS the following approach, subject to the further guidance given by the Court of Appeal in *R v Perkins; Bennett; Hall* [2013] EWCA Crim 323, [2013] Crim L.R. 533, should be adopted:
 - a) The VPS and any evidence in support should be considered and taken into account by the court, prior to passing sentence.
 - b) Evidence of the effects of an offence on the victim contained in the VPS or other statement, must be in proper form, that is a witness statement made under section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 or an expert's report; and served in good time upon the defendant's solicitor or the

defendant, if he or she is not represented. Except where inferences can properly be drawn from the nature of or circumstances surrounding the offence, a sentencing court must not make assumptions unsupported by evidence about the effects of an offence on the victim. The maker of a VPS may be cross-examined on its content.

- c) At the discretion of the court, the VPS may also be read aloud or played in open court, in whole or in part, or it may be summarised. If the VPS is to be read aloud, the court should also determine who should do so. In making these decisions, the court should take account of the victim's preferences, and follow them unless there is good reason not to do so; examples of this include the inadmissibility of the content or the potentially harmful consequences for the victim or others. Court hearings should not be adjourned solely to allow the victim to attend court to read the VPS. For the purposes of CPD I General matters 5B: Access to information held by the court, a VPS that is read aloud or played in open court in whole or in part should be considered as such, and no longer treated as a confidential document.
- d) In all cases it will be appropriate for a VPS to be referred to in the course of the sentencing hearing and/or in the sentencing remarks.
- e) The court must pass what it judges to be the appropriate sentence having regard to the circumstances of the offence and of the offender, taking into account, so far as the court considers it appropriate, the impact on the victim. The opinions of the victim or the victim's close relatives as to what the sentence should be are therefore not relevant, unlike the consequences of the offence on them. Victims should be advised of this. If, despite the advice, opinions as to sentence are included in the statement, the court should pay no attention to them.

CPD XII General application B: Modes of address and titles of judges and magistrates

For paragraph 1(c) of CPD XII General application B substitute:

B.1

(c) any Senior Circuit Judge who is an Honorary Recorder.

New Practice Direction on Impact Statements for Businesses

After CPD VII Sentencing H, the following to be added as 'CPD VII Sentencing I: Impact Statements for Businesses':

- I.1 Individual victims of crime are invited to make a statement, known as a Victim Personal Statement ('VPS'), see CPD VII Sentencing F. If the victim, or one of the victims, is a business or enterprise (including charities but excluding public sector bodies), of any size, a nominated representative may make an Impact Statement for Business ('ISB'). The ISB gives a formal opportunity for the court to be informed how a crime has affected a business. The court will take the statement into account when determining sentence. This does not prevent individual employees from making a VPS about the impact of the same crime on them as individuals. Indeed the ISB should be about the impact on the business exclusively, and the impact on any individual included within a VPS.
- I.2 When a police officer takes statements about the alleged offence, he or she should also inform the business about the scheme. An ISB may be made to the police at that time, or the ISB template may be downloaded from <u>www.police.uk</u>, completed and emailed or posted to the relevant police contact. Guidance on how to complete the form is available on <u>www.police.uk</u> and on the CPS website. There is no obligation on any business to make an ISB.
- I.3 An ISB or an updated ISB may be made (in proper s.9 form, see below) at any time prior to the disposal of the case. It will not be appropriate for an ISB to be made after disposal of the case but before an appeal.
- I.4 A business wishing to make an ISB should consider carefully who to nominate as the representative to make the statement on its behalf. A person making an ISB on behalf of a business, the nominated representative, must be authorised to do so on behalf of the business, either by nature of their position within the business, such as a director or owner, or by having been suitably authorised, such as by the owner or Board of Directors. The nominated representative must also be in a position to give admissible evidence about the impact of the crime on the business. This will usually be through first hand personal knowledge, or using business documents (as defined in section 117 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003). The most appropriate person will vary depending on the nature of the crime, and the size and structure of the business and may for example include a manager, director, chief executive or shop owner.
- I.5 If the nominated representative leaves the business before the case comes to court, he or she will usually remain the representative, as the ISB made by him or her will still provide the best evidence of the impact of the crime, and he or she could still be asked to attend court.

Nominated representatives should be made aware of the on-going nature of the role at the time of making the ISB.

- I.6 If necessary a further ISB may be provided to the police if there is a change in circumstances. This could be made by an alternative nominated representative. However, the new ISB will usually supplement, not replace, the original ISB and again must contain admissible evidence. The prosecutor will decide which ISB to serve on the defence as evidence, and any ISB that is not served in evidence will be included in the unused material and considered for disclosure to the defence.
- I.7 The ISB must be made in proper form, that is as a witness statement made under section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 or an expert's report; and served in good time upon the defendant's solicitor or the defendant, if he or she is not represented. The maker of an ISB can be cross-examined on its content.
- I.8 The ISB and any evidence in support should be considered and taken into account by the court, prior to passing sentence. The statement should be referred to in the course of the sentencing hearing and/or in the sentencing remarks. Subject to the court's discretion, the contents of the statement may be summarised or read out in open court; the views of the business should be taken into account in reaching a decision.
- 1.9 The court must pass what it judges to be the appropriate sentence having regard to the circumstances of the offence and of the offender, taking into account, so far as the court considers it appropriate, the impact on the victims, including any business victim. Opinions as to what the sentence should be are therefore not relevant. If, despite the advice, opinions as to sentence are included in the statement, the court should pay no attention to them.
- I.10 Except where inferences can properly be drawn from the nature of or circumstances surrounding the offence, a sentencing court must not make assumptions unsupported by evidence about the effects of an offence on a business.

Lord Chief Justice

Date: