

Criminal Records (Public Access) Bill

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TO

Facilitate access by members of the public to the registers of the Criminal Records Office.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duties in relation to criminal records

- (1) A criminal records office must keep, in electronic form, copies of all Magistrates’ Courts Registers, and any other registers produced by a court listing convictions, and must make them accessible to the public.
- (2) Information held by a criminal records office under subsection (1) shall not be “personal information” for the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 5
- (3) In order to comply with the requirements of subsection (1) a criminal records office must ensure that—
 - (a) the registers it holds are no more than one month out of date at any time, and 10
 - (b) no registers are held for the purposes of this Act which relate to the period before the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) In this Act—
 - “a criminal records office” means the Criminal Records Bureau or any successor body with similar statutory functions to the Criminal Records Bureau; 15
 - “Magistrates’ Courts Registers” are those registers held in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Rules made under the Courts Act 2003.

2 Financial provisions

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There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament any expenditure incurred in consequence of this Act by a Minister of the Crown, government department or other public authority.

3 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Criminal Records (Public Access) Act 2011.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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To facilitate access by members of the public to the registers of the Criminal Records Office.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by Mr Peter Bone, Philip Davies,
Mr Philip Hollobone, Mr David Nuttall,
Mr Greg Knight and Priti Patel.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 21 October 2010.*

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