

Child Criminal Exploitation Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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Create an offence of child criminal exploitation; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King’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 Child criminal exploitation: offence

- (1) A person (A) commits an offence if they—
- (a) recruit or attempt to recruit, or
 - (b) use another person (B) to recruit or attempt to recruit a child (C) for the purpose of C’s involvement in criminal activity. 5
- (2) For the purpose of determining whether A is guilty of an offence under subsection (1), it is not a defence that A did not know that C was a child.
- (3) A person may be found guilty of the offence in subsection (1) whether or not C—
- (a) engages in criminal activity, or 10
 - (b) is prosecuted for, or is found guilty of, any offence.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty years or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both, 15
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

2 Interpretation

In this Act—

- “child” means a person under the age of 18, 20
- “criminal activity” means conduct that constitutes an offence,
- “recruit” includes direct, induce, incite, coerce or compel.

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.

- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Child Criminal Exploitation Act 2024.

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Presented by Sir Paul Beresford

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