

A GUIDE TO THE GUIDES

CJM
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS

The enactment of significant legislation inevitably and necessarily generates an array of literature designed to make it intelligible to the many persons who will be affected by it.

The list below supplied by NACRO is, as far as possible, intended to be comprehensive. Responsibility for any errors or omissions is entirely mine.

Guides to the Criminal Justice Act

SUMMARIES OF THE ACT

NACRO Briefing Paper No. 108 **The Criminal Justice Act: 'Sentencing Provisions'**, free from NACRO, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

The Criminal Justice Act 1991 - 'A Guide', £1.50 from Prison Reform Trust, 59 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU.

BOOKLETS

Sentencing: 'The New Framework', £1.50 plus 50p postage from NACRO. **'Statutory Criteria for Custodial Sentences'**, £1.50 plus 50p postage from NACRO.

'Defendants and Offenders Under 18', £1.50 plus 50p postage from NACRO.

Pre-sentence Reports: 'A Handbook for Probation Officers and Social Workers', £2.50 plus 50p postage from NACRO.

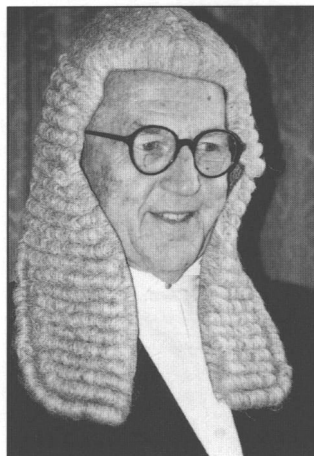
The Criminal Justice Act 1991: 'A Quick Reference Guide for the Probation Service', £2.50 plus 50p postage from NACRO.

BOOKS

'Blackstone's Guide to the Criminal Justice Act 1991', Martin Wasik and Richard D Taylor, Blackstone Press, 1991, £16.95.

'Introduction to the Criminal Justice Act 1991', ed. Bryan Gibson, 1992, £10.50 plus 70p p&p from Waterside Press, Freeport, Winchester SO23 9BR.

'The Youth Court', ed. Bryan Gibson,



Peter Dalrymple

1992, £10.50 plus 70p p&p from Waterside Press.

Criminal Justice Act 1991 Legal Points: 'Commentary and Annotated Guide for Practitioners', ed. Bryan Gibson, 1992, £10.50 plus 70p p&p from Waterside Press.

'Materials on the Criminal Justice Act 1991' ed. Bryan Gibson, 1992, £11.00 plus 70p p&p from Waterside Press.

THE SUMMARIES

Both the NACRO and Prison Reform Trust papers provide a brief introduction to key features of the legislation. The Prison Reform Trust guide seems better if you know in which area of the entire legislation you need to be briefed whereas the NACRO paper focuses upon the sentencing framework and puts it in a context.

BOOKLETS

The Quick Reference Guide and Handbook for pre-sentence reports are designed for a probation audience and relate clearly to the Probation Service training material also prepared by NACRO. All of the booklets, apart from the Quick Reference Guide, tackle one area of the legislation dealing with the key principles to be taken into account in some detail but avoid covering every possible eventuality. They also helpfully indicate where some areas for interpretation remain.

They are all very readable and well presented.

BOOKS

Not surprisingly this collection of materials is unlikely to be suitable for the busy practitioner to read through from cover to cover. They cover in detail both the principles and ramifications of the legislation. Bryan Gibson's writing is noted for its ease of comprehension and ability to render a potentially boring subject into an exciting read. That is a very important issue because many practitioners who need to develop advance familiarity with the Act could be easily tempted to avoid reading impenetrable tomes on subjects that are nevertheless important. Bryan Gibson makes for easier reading because, in my opinion, he puts the provisions of the Act into a historical and philosophical context which tells a tale.

Blackstone's Guide to me functions better than Bryan Gibson's publications as a reference text, to which one could turn for enlightenment on a variety of specific issues that are likely to tax practitioners in the criminal justice system after October 1992.

Designed for different purposes, both the Blackstone's Guide and Bryan Gibson's books should be readily available to all practitioners.

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JOIN THE FEDERATION OF PRISONERS FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUPS AND RECEIVE A FREE NATIONAL DIRECTORY

"A National Directory for Prisoners Families" is an invaluable reference work containing the names, addresses, phone numbers and brief biographical details of more than 140 support groups and other relevant organisations throughout the UK.

The Directory is published by the Federation of Prisoners' Families Support Groups, which was founded in 1989 to encourage the development of, and act as a voice for, organisations that provide assistance to the partners and children of people in prison. It is available from 3 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AF at £2.00 a copy plus 60p postage and packing.

The Directory is free to Federation members. Please write to the Membership Secretary at the above address enclosing £5.00 plus 60p for postage and packing.