

CRIMELINE ASK

Ask a question about criminal law. Read the answer with its sources attached.

CrimeLine Ask answers research questions from CrimeLine's own library, in formal, practitioner English. Every proposition links back to the article or case note it came from. When the library does not cover a point, the answer says so.

1,350+

knowledge base articles on law, procedure and sentencing

44,000+

case notes, updated as judgments are handed down

Every answer

cited and linked to its sources. No exceptions.

When can a youth be committed to the Crown Court for sentence?

Committal of a youth for sentence is governed by the Sentencing Act 2020. The power arises on summary trial of specified offences, and its reach differs according to whether the conviction followed a guilty plea ^[1]. The dangerous offender provisions provide a separate route ^[2]...

SOURCES

[1] [Youths – Committal for Sentence](#)

[2] [Sentencing Children and Young People](#)

Built for the way practitioners actually ask

Questions arrive mid-conference, on the way to court, at 10.40pm before a trial. Ask meets them as they come.

Follow the thread

Ask reads the whole conversation, so a five-word follow-up lands properly. Answer by answer, it builds on what has already been said instead of repeating it.

Each answer draws a fresh set of sources. The youth follow-up here retrieved different articles and authorities from the first question, because it needed them.

Find the case you half-remember

A citation is enough, even with the name wrong. No citation to hand? Describe the case: Ask searches the full text of more than 44,000 case notes and brings back the authority, with its date and a link.

Search by meaning

Your words are rarely the court's words. Ask searches by meaning as well as by keyword, so the gap between how you describe a case and how a judge wrote it stops mattering.

What are the elements of affray?

A person is guilty of affray under section 3 of the Public Order Act 1986 where they use or threaten unlawful violence and their conduct would cause a person of reasonable firmness at the scene to fear for their safety ^[1]...

And where the offender is a youth?

Where the offender is a youth, the maximum period of detention is fixed by the limits on youth disposals rather than the adult maximum of three years ^[1]...

You type: "Baboo [2025] EWCA Crim 1870"



Babu (Mohan) [2025] EWCA Crim 1870

The citation wins over the spelling.

You type: "recent case where leading counsel recovered costs for work on unused material"



Preddie (Keith) [2026] EWHC 820 (SCCO)

Found by content, with the publication date. Related costs authorities offered alongside.

You type: "recent case involving children convicted of rape whose sentences were overturned"



X, Y and Z [2026] EWCA Crim 845

A judgment that never uses the words "overturned" or "convicted". It says "quashed" and "substituted". Ask found it anyway.

Hand it a judgment. Then question it.

Attach up to three documents to a conversation: a judgment, sentencing remarks, a prosecution notice. Ask reads them alongside the library, and cites your PDF by page number.

1

Attach

One click. [Jowitt \(Christopher Henry\) \[2026\] EWCA Crim 694.pdf](#)

2

Ask about the document

"What were the grounds of appeal and how did the court deal with each?" The answer sets out both grounds of the Attorney General's reference and the court's treatment of each, cited to the pages of the uploaded judgment.

3

Ask about the document and the law together

"Is the approach to firearms categorisation consistent with the current guideline as CrimeLine states it?" The answer weighed the uploaded judgment against a decided case, Hussain [2021] EWCA Crim 1039, and two CrimeLine firearms articles. All four appeared as sources, side by side.

WHAT IT SAID WHEN THE MATERIAL RAN OUT

"...the point cannot be tested exhaustively against the guideline text itself, which is not reproduced in the knowledge base."

CrimeLine Ask, declining to pretend. An assistant that tells you the limits of its sources is an assistant you can rely on inside them.

The whole library, and nothing but the library

Every answer is assembled from two places: CrimeLine's own articles and case notes, and any documents you attach. Ask has no access to the open internet. It cannot quote a forum, a comment thread or an American statute, because it cannot see them. A made-up authority has nowhere to come from: every source in every answer is a live link you can open and read.

Your documents stay yours

Practitioners upload privileged material. The handling rules are strict, simple and built in.

✓ **Deleted within hours**

Uploaded documents are stored under randomised names, tied to your login, and removed from the server automatically within a few hours of upload.

✓ **Never used to train AI**

Your documents and questions are not used to train any model, by CrimeLine or by anyone else.

✓ **Never visible to others**

A document you upload can be read by your session and no one else's. Answers involving your documents are never reused for another user.

✓ **Questions are not recorded**

CrimeLine keeps no log of the questions you ask. Document contents are never stored beyond the few hours needed to answer, and are never indexed or added to search.

Who it's for

Solicitors and counsel who need a grounded first answer, fast, with the sources ready to check. Chambers and firms that want juniors researching against a single, trusted library instead of the open web. Anyone who has ever been handed a judgment at 4pm and a conference at 4.30.

CrimeLine Ask is available to CrimeLine subscribers and sits inside the site you already know, maintained by Andrew Keogh.

**Put a question to it
today**

Subscribers: log in and ask. New to CrimeLine: subscribe online in minutes. Firms and chambers: contact us about team access.

crimeline.co.uk

CrimeLine Ask is a research aid for legal professionals in England and Wales. It is not legal advice, and answers should be read with the cited sources. Answers are generated from CrimeLine's library and any documents supplied by the user.