



# Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954

## CHAPTER 33

### INTERPRETATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954

#### APPLICATION OF THIS ACT MEANING OF CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS AS USED...

##### APPLICATION OF THIS ACT

- 1 Meaning of certain expressions as used in this Act.
- 2 Application of this Act.
- 3 Rules not inconsistent not excluded.

##### OPERATION OF ENACTMENTS

- 4 Acts to be deemed public.
- 5 Provisions in private Acts.
- 6 Enactments to apply to whole of Northern Ireland.
- 7 Crown not bound, unless named.
- 8 References to the Crown, etc.
- 9 Provisions to be substantive enactments.
- 10 Preamble and marginal notes.
- 11 References in enactments.
- 11A References to EU instruments etc which have direct effect
- 12 Amending provisions.
- 13 Date of passing, etc., of enactments.
- 14 Coming into force of enactments.
- 15 Date of expiration of enactments.
- 16 Exercise of powers before enactment comes into force.
- 17 Statutory powers and duties generally.

**Changes to legislation:** Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 31 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

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- 18 Provisions as to holders of offices.
- 19 Effect of words of incorporation.
- 20 Offences.
- 21 Rules regulating procedure of courts and tribunals.
- 22 Powers of appellate courts.
- 23 Inquiries and investigations
- 24 Service of documents.
- 25 Deviation in forms.
- 26 Oaths, affirmations and declarations.
- 27 Operation of declaration that provisions are to cease to have effect.
- 28 Effect of repeal.
- 29 Effect of substituting provisions.
- 30 Reprints.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ENACTMENTS

- 31 Enactment always speaking.
- 32 Limited nature of powers, privileges or advantages granted by enactments.
- 33 Expressions in instrument have same meaning as in enactment.
- 34 Application of interpretation provisions in enactments.
- 35 Corresponding meanings of parts of speech.
- 36 Names commonly used.
- 37 Rules as to gender and number.
- 38 Construction of “shall” and “may”.
- 39 Time.
- 40 Distance.

#### MEANING OF PARTICULAR WORDS AND PHRASES

- 41 Definitions for parliamentary purposes.
- 42 Definitions for judicial purposes.
- 43 Definitions for official purposes.
- 43A Definitions in connection with police.
- 44 Definitions for local government purposes.
- 44A Definitions relating to the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union
- 45 References relating to land.
- 46 Miscellaneous definitions.

#### CITATION

- 47 Citation of statutory provisions, etc.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL

- 48 Repeals, etc.
- 49 Saving.  
S. 50 rep. by SLR 1973

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51 Short title.

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## SCHEDULES

— Schedule rep. by SLR 1973

### SCHEDULE A1 — PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

- 1 Introductory
- 2 Appointment of person to hold inquiry
- 3 Notification of time and place of inquiry
- 4 Powers to require persons to give evidence etc.
- 5 Oaths and statements
- 6 Offences
- 7 Expenses

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 1(f)(i) words in s. 1(f) renumbered as s. 1(f)(i) by [S.I. 2019/628 reg. 5\(1\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(1)(a) omitted (30.4.2020) by virtue of S.I. 2020/463, regs. 1(1), 10(6)(a))
- s. 1(f)(ii) inserted by [S.I. 2019/628 reg. 5\(1\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(1)(c) substituted (30.4.2020) by S.I. 2020/463, regs. 1(1), 10(6)(c))
- s. 20(2) applied (with modifications) by [2015 c. 8 \(N.I.\) s. 125\(1\)](#)
- s. 24 applied (with modifications) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 114\(2\)](#)
- s. 24 excluded by [2015 c. 8 \(N.I.\) s. 124\(2\)](#)
- s. 39(2) excluded by [S.R. 2023/143 art. 2\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.R. 2023/143 revoked before coming into operation (26.9.2023) by The Social Security Benefits Up-rating (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023 (S.R. 2023/150), arts. 1, 33)