
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1996 No. 1299

The Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

PART III

OFFENCES IN CONNECTION WITH PROCEEDS OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT

Acquisition, possession or use of proceeds of criminal conduct

45.—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, knowing that any property is, or in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents, another person's proceeds of criminal conduct, he acquires or uses that property or has possession of it.

(2) It is a defence to a charge of committing an offence under this Article that the person charged acquired or used the property or had possession of it for adequate consideration.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)—

- (a) a person acquires property for inadequate consideration if the value of the consideration is significantly less than the value of the property; and
- (b) a person uses or has possession of property for inadequate consideration if the value of the consideration is significantly less than the value of his use or possession of the property.

(4) The provision for any person of services or goods which are of assistance to him in criminal conduct shall not be treated as consideration for the purposes of paragraph (2).

(5) Where a person discloses to a constable a suspicion or belief that any property is, or in whole or in part directly or indirectly represents, another person's proceeds of criminal conduct or discloses to a constable any matter on which such a suspicion or belief is based—

- (a) the disclosure shall not be treated as a breach of any restriction upon the disclosure of information imposed by statute or otherwise; and
- (b) if he does any act in relation to that property in contravention of paragraph (1), he does not commit an offence under this Article if—
 - (i) the disclosure is made before he does the act concerned and the act is done with the consent of the constable; or
 - (ii) the disclosure is made after he does the act, but on his initiative and as soon as it is reasonable for him to make it.

(6) For the purposes of this Article, having possession of any property shall be taken to be doing an act in relation to it.

(7) In proceedings against a person for an offence under this Article, it is a defence to prove that—

- (a) he intended to disclose to a constable such a suspicion, belief or matter as is, mentioned in paragraph (5); but
- (b) there is reasonable excuse for his failure to make the disclosure in accordance with subparagraph (b) of that paragraph.

(8) In the case of a person who was in employment at the relevant time, paragraphs (5) and (7) shall have effect in relation to disclosures, and intended disclosures, to the appropriate person in

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accordance with the procedure established by his employer for the making of such disclosures as they have effect in relation to disclosures, and intended disclosures, to a constable.

(9) A person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years or to a fine or to both;

(b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.

(10) No constable or other person shall be guilty of an offence under this Article in respect of anything done by him in the course of acting in connection with the enforcement, or intended enforcement, of any provision of this Order or of any other statutory provision relating to criminal conduct or the proceeds of such conduct.