
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1996 No. 275

The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

PART II

GAS SUPPLY AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

Miscellaneous

Directions restricting the use of certain information

45.—(1) The Department may give to any person who is authorised by a licence to convey gas from one place to another (“the authorised person”) such directions as appear to the Department to be requisite or expedient for the purpose of securing that, in any case where paragraph (2) applies, neither the person by whom the information mentioned in that paragraph is acquired nor any other person obtains any unfair commercial advantage from his possession of the information.

[^{F1}(1A) The Department shall, in particular, issue such directions under paragraph (1) as appear to it to be requisite or expedient to ensure that a person who holds a licence under Article 8(1)(a) does not abuse or disclose [^{F2}commercially sensitive information obtained in the course of carrying out its business, except in accordance with a legal duty to disclose information.]]

(2) This paragraph applies where, in the course of any dealings with an outside person who is, or is an associate of, a person authorised by a licence or exemption to convey, store or supply gas, the authorised person or any associate of his is furnished with or otherwise acquires any information which relates to the affairs of that outside person or any associate of his.

(3) As soon as practicable after giving any directions under paragraph (1), the Department shall publish a copy of the directions in such manner as the Department considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the directions to the attention of persons likely to be affected by a contravention of them.

(4) The obligation to comply with any directions under paragraph (1) is a duty owed to any person who may be affected by a contravention of them.

(5) Where a duty is owed under paragraph (4) to any person any breach of the duty which causes that person to sustain loss or damage shall be actionable-at the suit of that person.

(6) In any proceedings brought against any person under paragraph (S), it shall be a defence for him to prove that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid contravening the directions.

(7) Without prejudice to any right which any person may have by virtue of paragraph (5) to bring civil proceedings in respect of any contravention or apprehended contravention of any directions under this Article, compliance with any such directions shall be enforceable by civil proceedings by the Department for an injunction or for any other appropriate relief.

(8) In this Article—

“dealings” includes dealings entered into otherwise than for purposes connected with the conveyance of gas;

Changes to legislation: *The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, Section 45 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 January 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*

“outside person”, in relation to any person, means any person who is not an associate of his; and for the purposes of this Article a person is an associate of another if he and that other are connected with each other within the meaning of [^{F3}section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010].

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| <p>F1 Art. 45(1A) inserted (1.10.2006) by Gas Order 1996 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006/358), reg. 11</p> <p>F2 Words in art. 45(1A) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Electricity and Gas etc. (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/530), regs. 1(1), 126; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)</p> <p>F3 Words in art. 45(8) substituted (1.4.2010 with effect as mentioned in s. 1184(1) of the amending Act) by Corporation Tax Act 2010 (c. 4), ss. 1177, 1184(1), Sch. 1 para. 295(3) (subject to Sch. 2)</p> |
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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument am. (pt.prosp.) by [1998 c. 41 s.66\(5\)Sch.10 Pt.III para.8](#)
- Instrument amended by [1998 c. 41 s.66\(5\)Sch.10 Pt.V para.18](#)
- Instrument rev. in pt. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 41 ss.66\(5\),74\(3\)](#), Sch.10, Pt.V, para.18, Sch.14, Pt.II

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 18(1A)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 7(2)(b) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 24](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)