



Intelligence Services Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 13

GCHQ

3 The Government Communications Headquarters.

- (1) There shall continue to be a Government Communications Headquarters under the authority of the Secretary of State; and, subject to subsection (2) below, its functions shall be—
- (a) to monitor [^{F1}, make use of] or interfere with electromagnetic, acoustic and other emissions and any equipment producing such emissions and to obtain and provide information derived from or related to such emissions or equipment and from encrypted material; and
 - (b) to provide advice and assistance about—
 - (i) languages, including terminology used for technical matters, and
 - (ii) cryptography and other matters relating to the protection of information and other material,to the armed forces of the Crown, to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or to a Northern Ireland Department [^{F2}or, in such cases as it considers appropriate, to other organisations or persons, or to the general public, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.]
- (2) The functions referred to in subsection (1)(a) above shall be exercisable only—
- (a) in the interests of national security, with particular reference to the defence and foreign policies of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom; or
 - (b) in the interests of the economic well-being of the United Kingdom in relation to the actions or intentions of persons outside the British Islands; or
 - (c) in support of the prevention or detection of serious crime.
- (3) In this Act the expression "GCHQ" refers to the Government Communications Headquarters and to any unit or part of a unit of the armed forces of the Crown which is for the time being required by the Secretary of State to assist the Government Communications Headquarters in carrying out its functions.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Intelligence Services Act 1994, Section 3. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [s. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#) inserted (13.2.2017) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), [ss. 251\(2\)\(a\)](#), [272\(1\)](#) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2017/137](#), [reg. 2\(r\)](#)
- F2** Words in [s. 3\(1\)\(b\)](#) substituted (13.2.2017) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), [ss. 251\(2\)\(b\)](#), [272\(1\)](#) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2017/137](#), [reg. 2\(r\)](#)
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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 3 wholly in force at 15.12.1994; S. 3 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 12\(2\)](#); s. 3 in force at 2.11.1994 for certain purposes and wholly in force at 15.12.1994 by [S.I. 1994/2734](#), [art. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Intelligence Services Act 1994, Section 3.