



Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 39

1 Obstructing or hindering certain emergency workers responding to emergency circumstances

- (1) A person who without reasonable excuse obstructs or hinders another while that other person is, in a capacity mentioned in subsection (2) below, responding to emergency circumstances, commits an offence.
- (2) The capacity referred to in subsection (1) above is—
- (a) that of a person employed by a fire and rescue authority in England and Wales;
 - (b) in relation to England and Wales, that of a person (other than a person falling within paragraph (a)) whose duties as an employee or as a servant of the Crown involve—
 - (i) extinguishing fires; or
 - (ii) protecting life and property in the event of a fire;
 - (c) that of a person employed by a relevant NHS body in the provision of ambulance services (including air ambulance services), or of a person providing such services pursuant to arrangements made by, or at the request of, a relevant NHS body;
 - (d) that of a person providing services for the transport of organs, blood, equipment or personnel pursuant to arrangements made by, or at the request of, a relevant NHS body;
 - (e) that of a member of Her Majesty's Coastguard;
 - (f) that of a member of the crew of a vessel operated by—
 - (i) the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, or
 - (ii) any other person or organisation operating a vessel for the purpose of providing a rescue service,or a person who musters the crew of such a vessel or attends to its launch or recovery.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2013. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) For the purposes of this section and section 2 of this Act, a person is responding to emergency circumstances if the person—
- (a) is going anywhere for the purpose of dealing with emergency circumstances occurring there; or
 - (b) is dealing with emergency circumstances or preparing to do so.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, circumstances are “emergency” circumstances if they are present or imminent and—
- (a) are causing or are likely to cause—
 - (i) serious injury to or the serious illness (including mental illness) of a person;
 - (ii) serious harm to the environment (including the life and health of plants and animals);
 - (iii) serious harm to any building or other property; or
 - (iv) a worsening of any such injury, illness or harm; or
 - (b) are likely to cause the death of a person.
- (5) In subsection (2) above “relevant NHS body” means—
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, [^{F1}the Secretary of State in the exercise of public health functions, a local authority in the exercise of public health functions, the National Health Service Commissioning Board, a clinical commissioning group,] an NHS foundation trust, National Health Service trust, Special Health Authority^{F2}... or Local Health Board;
 - (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, a Health and Social Services trust or Health and Social Services Board.
- [^{F3}(6) In subsection (5)(a) above “public health functions”—
- (a) in relation to the Secretary of State, has the same meaning as in section 1H(5)(a) of the National Health Service Act 2006;
 - (b) in relation to a local authority, has the same meaning as in section 1H(5)(b) of that Act.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(5)(a) inserted (1.4.2013) by [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\), s. 306\(4\), Sch. 5 para. 138\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9)
- F2** Words in s. 1(5)(a) omitted (1.4.2013) by virtue of [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\), s. 306\(4\), Sch. 5 para. 138\(a\)\(ii\)](#); S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9)
- F3** S. 1(6) inserted (1.4.2013) by [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\), s. 306\(4\), Sch. 5 para. 138\(b\)](#); S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9)
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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 1 in force at 20.2.2007 by [S.I. 2007/153, art. 2](#)

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2013. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006, Section 1.