



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;
 - [^{F1}(aa) that of a Ministry of Defence fire-fighter (as defined in section 16 of the Armed Forces Act 2016);]
 - (b) in relation to England and Wales, that of a person (other than a person falling within paragraph (a) [^{F2}or (aa)]) 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.

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, [^{F3}the Secretary of State in the exercise of public health functions, a local authority in the exercise of public health functions, [^{F4}NHS England], [^{F5}an integrated care board,]] an NHS foundation trust, National Health Service trust, Special Health Authority^{F6}... or Local Health Board;
 - (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, a [^{F7}Health and Social Care trust].
- [^{F8}(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** S. 1(2)(aa) inserted (12.7.2016) by [Armed Forces Act 2016 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 16(5)(a)**, 19(3)(b)
- F2** Words in s. 1(2)(b) inserted (12.7.2016) by [Armed Forces Act 2016 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 16(5)(b)**, 19(3)(b)
- F3** 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)
- F4** Words in s. 1 substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), Sch. 1 para. 1(1)(2); S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F5** Words in s. 1(5)(a) substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), **Sch. 4 para. 85**; S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F6** 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)
- F7** Words in s. 1(5)(b) substituted (N.I.) (1.4.2022) by [Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 8(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 210**; S.R. 2022/102; and substituted (E.W.) (30.11.2022) by [The Health and Social Care Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1174\)](#), arts. 1(2), **22**
- F8** 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)

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)

Commencement Information

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

Changes to legislation:

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