

BRIBERY ACT 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Section 11: Penalties

56. Any offence under the Act committed by an individual under sections 1, 2 or 6 is punishable either by a fine or imprisonment for up to 10 years (12 months on summary conviction in England and Wales or Scotland or 6 months in Northern Ireland), or both. An offence committed by a person other than an individual is punishable by a fine. In either case, the fine may be up to the statutory maximum (currently £5000 in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, £10000 in Scotland) if the conviction is summary, and unlimited if it is on indictment. The section 7 offence can only be tried upon indictment.
57. Section 154 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which is not yet in force, sets the maximum sentence that can be imposed by a Magistrates' Court in England and Wales at 12 months. Where an offence under this Act is committed before section 154 comes into force, the Magistrates' Court's power is limited to 6 months (*subsection (4)(a)*).