



# Criminal Finances Act 2017

## 2017 CHAPTER 22

### PART 1

#### PROCEEDS OF CRIME

#### CHAPTER 4

##### ENFORCEMENT POWERS AND RELATED OFFENCES

##### *Assault and obstruction offences*

### 23 Assault and obstruction offence in relation to SFO officers

After section 453A of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 insert—

#### **“453B Certain offences in relation to SFO officers**

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person assaults an SFO officer who is acting in the exercise of a relevant power.
- (2) A person commits an offence if the person resists or wilfully obstructs an SFO officer who is acting in the exercise of a relevant power.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction in England and Wales, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or to a fine, or to both;
  - (b) on summary conviction in Northern Ireland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) is liable—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) on summary conviction in England and Wales, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, or to both;
  - (b) on summary conviction in Northern Ireland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 month, or to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, or to both.
- (5) In this section “relevant power” means a power exercisable under any of the following—
- (a) sections 47C to 47F or 195C to 195F (powers to seize and search for realisable property);
  - (b) section 289 (powers to search for cash);
  - (c) section 294 (power to seize cash);
  - (d) section 295(1) (power to detain seized cash);
  - (e) section 303C (powers to search for a listed asset);
  - (f) section 303J (powers to seize property);
  - (g) section 303K (powers to detain seized property);
  - (h) a search and seizure warrant issued under section 352.
- (6) In relation to an offence committed before the coming into force of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (alteration of penalties for certain summary offences: England and Wales)—
- (a) the reference in subsection (3)(a) to 51 weeks is to be read as a reference to 6 months;
  - (b) the reference in subsection (4)(a) to 51 weeks is to be read as a reference to 1 month.”