



# Telegraph Act 1868

1868 CHAPTER 110 31 and 32 Vict

An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire, work, and maintain Electric Telegraphs. [31st July 1868]

## Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Whole Act, except ss. 1 and 20 repealed by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, [Sch. 7 Pt. 1](#)
- C2 Act extended by [Telegraph Act 1870 \(c. 88\)](#), s. 3
- C3 Preamble omitted under authority of [Statute Law Revision \(No. 2\) Act 1893 \(c. 54\)](#)

## Preliminary

### 1 Short title.

This Act may be cited as “The Telegraph Act 1868.”

2—19 ..... <sup>F1</sup>

## Textual Amendments

- F1 Whole Act, except ss. 1 and 20 repealed by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, [Sch. 7 Pt. 1](#)

### 20 Punishment for disclosing or intercepting messages.

Any person having official duties connected with the [<sup>F2</sup>Post Office], or acting on behalf of the [<sup>F2</sup>Post Office], who shall, contrary to his duty, disclose or in any way make known or intercept the contents or any part of the contents of any telegraphic messages or any message intrusted to the [<sup>F2</sup>Post Office] for the purpose of transmission, shall in England and in Ireland be guilty of a misdemeanor, and in

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Scotland of a crime and offence, and shall upon conviction be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve calendar months; . . . <sup>F3</sup>

**Textual Amendments**

- F2** Words substituted by virtue of [Post Office Act 1969 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 4 para. 4](#)
- F3** Words repealed by [Post Office Act 1969 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 8 Pt. I](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C4** S. 20 amended by [Post Office Act 1969 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 5 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- C5** Reference to Ireland to be construed as exclusive of Republic of Ireland: S.R. & O. 1923/405 (Rev. X, p. 298: 1923, p. 400), art. 2
- C6** S. 20 amended as to mode of trial (E.W.) by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), s. 17, [Sch. 1 para. 6](#)

**21—** . . . . . <sup>F4</sup>

**24.**

**Textual Amendments**

- F4** Whole Act, except ss. 1 and 20 repealed by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, [Sch. 7 Pt. I](#)

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## SCHEDULE

TO WHICH THE FOREGOING ACT REFERS

F5

### Textual Amendments

**F5** Whole Act, except ss. 1 and 20 repealed by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, [Sch. 7 Pt. 1](#)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Telegraph Act 1868.