
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. 787

**INTERNATIONAL IMMUNITIES
AND PRIVILEGES**

The European Organization for Astronomical Research in
the Southern Hemisphere and the European Space Agency
(Immunities and Privileges) (Amendment) Order 2018

Made - - - - 27th June 2018

Coming into force in accordance with article 1

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 27th day of June 2018

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1 and 10(3) of the International Organisations Act 1968(1).

A draft of this Order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament pursuant to section 10(1) of the International Organisations Act 1968(2).

Accordingly, Her Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order as follows

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere and the European Space Agency (Immunities and Privileges) (Amendment) Order 2018.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), this Order comes into force on the day after the day on which it is made.

(3) Article 4 (Amendments to the European Space Agency (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1978) comes into force on the date on which the Agreement between the United Kingdom and the

(1) 1968 c.48.

(2) The function of approving a draft of an Order in Council under section 10 of that Act has been transferred from both Houses of Parliament to the Scottish Parliament under section 118 of the Scotland Act 1998 c.46 (as amended by section 12 of the Scotland Act 2012 c.11) in so far as the function is exercisable within devolved competence.

European Space Agency concerning the European Space Agency's Sites and Facilities in the United Kingdom enters into force in the United Kingdom(3).

Application

2. In Scotland, the amendments made by article 3(3) and (4)(b) and article 4(2) and (3)(a) do not apply in so far as they would, if included in an Act of the Scottish Parliament, be within the legislative competence of that Parliament.

Amendments to the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (Immunities and Privileges) Order 2009

3.—(1) The European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (Immunities and Privileges) Order 2009(4) is amended as follows.

(2) After article 1, insert—

“1A.—(1) This Order extends to the whole of the United Kingdom subject to paragraph (2).

(2) Article 9 extends to England and Wales and Northern Ireland only.

(3) In Scotland, articles 6, 7, 11, 14, 15 and 16 do not apply in so far as they would, if included in an Act of the Scottish Parliament, be within the legislative competence of that Parliament.”.

(3) In article 15 (High Officers)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) for sub-paragraph (a), substitute—

“(a) the like—

(i) immunity from suit and legal process,

(ii) inviolability of residence, and

(iii) exemption or relief from taxes and rates, other than duties (whether of customs or excise) and taxes on the importation of goods,

as are accorded to or in respect of the head of a diplomatic mission;”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (e), omit the words from “provided that this Article” to the end of paragraph (1);

(b) after paragraph (2), insert—

“(3) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), paragraph (1)(a) to (d) does not apply to any person who is a British citizen, British overseas territories citizen, British Overseas citizen, British National (Overseas) or permanent resident of the United Kingdom.

(4) Paragraph (1)(a)(i) applies to any person who is a British citizen, British overseas territories citizen, British Overseas citizen, British National (Overseas) or permanent resident of the United Kingdom, in respect of things done or omitted to be done by them in the course of performance of official duties, except in the case of motor traffic offences committed by them or of damage caused by a motor vehicle belonging to or driven by them.

(3) The date on which the Agreement enters into force for the United Kingdom will be published on the relevant page on UK Treaties Online which can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/uk-treaties>. A copy of the Agreement can be obtained from Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

(4) S.I. 2009/1748.

(5) Paragraph (1)(a)(iii) applies to any person who is a British citizen, British overseas territories citizen, British Overseas citizen, British National (Overseas) or permanent resident of the United Kingdom only in respect of exemption from income tax on emoluments received as an officer of the Organization, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted as precluding such emoluments from being taken into account for the purpose of assessing the amount of taxation to be applied to income from other sources.”

(4) In article 16(1) (All Other Officers)—

(a) after sub-paragraph (c), insert—

“(d) exemptions whereby for the purposes of the enactments relating to social security, including enactments in force in Northern Ireland—

(i) services rendered for the Organization shall be deemed to be excepted from any class of employment in respect of which contributions under those enactments are payable, but

(ii) no person shall be rendered liable to pay any contribution which he would not be required to pay if those services were not deemed to be so excepted.”;

(b) in the full out, for “this paragraph” substitute “sub-paragraph (c)”.

Amendments to the European Space Agency (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1978

4.—(1) The European Space Agency (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1978(5) is amended as follows.

(2) In article 15 (High Officers)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) after “Convention”, insert “, and the Head of the Harwell Centre,”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (a), after “customs” insert “or excise”;

(iii) in the full out, for “a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies” substitute “a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen or a British National (Overseas)”;

(b) for paragraph (2), substitute—

“(2) Part IV of Schedule 1 to the Act does not operate so as to confer any privilege or immunity on any person who is a member of the family of an officer to whom paragraph (1) applies if the person is a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British National (Overseas) or permanent resident of the United Kingdom.”;

(c) after paragraph (2), insert—

“(3) Subject to paragraph (4), paragraphs (1) and (2) apply as they apply to the officers mentioned in paragraph (1) to up to seven officers of the Agency who—

(a) hold the position of Head of Office,

(b) are high ranking staff under Article 14 of the Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Space Agency concerning the European Space Agency’s sites and Facilities in the United Kingdom signed on 16th July 2013, and

(c) are notified to the Secretary of State by the Agency.

(5) [S.I. 1978/1105](#). The instrument entered into force on 30th October 1980. The relevant amending instrument is [S.I. 1980/1086](#).

- (4) In its application to the officers referred to in paragraph (3)—
 - (a) the waivers referred to in paragraph (1) are to be made by the Director General of the Agency, and
 - (b) sub-paragraph (a) of that paragraph is to be read as if the references to immunity from suit and legal process and to inviolability of residence were omitted.”.
- (3) In Article 16 (All Officers)—
 - (a) after the second “Director General”, insert “or the Head of the Harwell Centre;”;
 - (b) omit the “and” at the end of sub-paragraph (b);
 - (c) in paragraph (c), for “citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies” substitute “British citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Overseas citizens or British Nationals (Overseas)”;
 - (d) after sub-paragraph (c), insert—
 - “(d) unless they are British citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Overseas citizens, British Nationals (Overseas) or permanent residents of the United Kingdom, exemption from duties (whether of customs or excise) and taxes on the importation of any motor vehicle imported as a replacement for a motor vehicle in respect of which the conditions specified in sub-paragraph (c) are fulfilled, such exemption to be subject to compliance with such conditions as the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs may prescribe for the protection of the Revenue; and
 - (e) provided that the Agency has established or joined a social security scheme, exemptions whereby for the purposes of the enactments relating to social security, including enactments in force in Northern Ireland—
 - (i) services rendered for the Agency by them shall be deemed to be excepted from any class of employment in respect of which contributions under those enactments are payable, but
 - (ii) no person shall be rendered liable to pay any contribution which the person would not be required to pay if those services were not deemed to be so excepted.”.

Richard Tilbrook
Clerk of the Privy Council

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (Immunities and Privileges) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1748) (“the ESO Order”) and the European Space Agency (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1105) (“the ESA Order”).

The ESO Order implements the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (Cm 8516) which entered into force for the UK on 25th September 2012 (“the Protocol”). Articles 15 and 16 of the ESO Order make provision for privileges and immunities conferred by the Protocol on the officers of the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (“the Organization”).

Article 3(3) of this Order amends article 15 of the ESO Order to ensure that, if the Director-General or person appointed to act instead of the Director General of the Organization has a form of British nationality, that person shall benefit from immunity from suit and legal process in respect of official acts (not including motor vehicle offences or damage), from exemption from income tax on emoluments received as an officer of the Organization, and from exemptions relating to social security.

Article 3(4) of this Order amends article 16 of the ESO Order to provide that any officer of the Organization (other than an officer falling within article 15 of that Order) who has a form of British nationality shall benefit from immunity from suit and legal process in respect of official acts, from exemption from income tax in respect of emoluments received as an officer of the Organization, and from exemptions relating to social security.

The ESA Order implements Annex I of the Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency, which entered into force on 30 October 1980 (Cm 6272). An Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Space Agency concerning the European Space Agency’s Sites and Facilities in the United Kingdom signed on 13th June 2013 (‘the Agreement’) provides for the establishment and operation of an Agency centre at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in the United Kingdom. This Order will enable Her Majesty’s Government to give effect to its obligations under the Agreement relating to privileges and immunities.

Article 4(2) amends article 15 of the ESA Order to include the Head of the Harwell Centre as a high officer. It also provides that up to seven high-ranking officials, in addition to the Director General and the Head of the Harwell Centre, are high officers but limits their privileges and immunities so that they do not have immunity from suit and legal process (except in relation to things done in the exercise of their functions) or inviolability of their residence.

Article 4(3) amends article 16 of the ESA Order to provide that all officers have customs and tax exemptions in relation to a vehicle imported to replace any vehicle imported upon taking up their position and to exempt them from social security contributions. The first of these exemptions does not apply to British nationals or permanent residents of the United Kingdom.