



# Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953

## 1953 CHAPTER 18

### SUPPLEMENTAL

#### 47 Interpretation.

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, unless the contrary intention appears, the following expressions have the meaning hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

[<sup>F1</sup>“Department” means the Department of Justice;]

“governor” includes the person for the time being in charge of any prison;

“intoxicating liquor” includes any fermented, distilled or spirituous liquor which under the law for the time being in force is subject to an excise duty;

“land” includes land covered by water and any estate or interest in land;

“Minister” means the Minister of Home Affairs<sup>F2</sup> for Northern Ireland;

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*Definition rep. by 1989 NI 15*

“prisoner” includes any person lawfully committed to any prison.

- [<sup>F3</sup>(1A) In this Act “prison” includes any prison or other institution for the treatment of offenders, not being—

(a) a young offenders centre;

(b) a remand centre; [<sup>F4</sup> or]

(c) a juvenile justice centre]

but this Act,<sup>F5</sup> . . . , shall have effect in relation to young offenders centres and remand centres and to persons detained therein as it has effect in relation to prisons and prisoners.

- (2) A reference in this Act to any [<sup>F3</sup> prison] shall be construed as including a reference to all land and buildings used for the purposes of or in connection with that [<sup>F3</sup> prison].
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, a person committed to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction shall be treated as undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for the term for which he is committed, and consecutive terms of imprisonment shall be treated as one term.

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**Changes to legislation:** Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953, Section 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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*Subs. (4)(5) rep. by 1954 c. 33 (NI)*

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| <b>F1</b> | <a href="#">S. 47(1)</a> : definition of "Department" inserted (12.4.2010) by <a href="#">Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010</a> (S.I. 2010/976), arts. 1(2), 6(1), <b>Sch. 4 para. 7</b> (with arts. 28-31); S.I. 2010/977, <b>art. 1(2)</b> |
| <b>F2</b> | Functions transf. to S of S, SI 1973/2163  |
| <b>F3</b> | <a href="#">1989 NI 15</a>   |
| <b>F4</b> | <a href="#">1998 NI 9</a>  |
| <b>F5</b> | <a href="#">2005 NI 15</a>   |

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 47(1) words repealed by [S.I. 2008/1216 \(N.I.\) Sch. 6 Pt. 3](#)