



# Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954

## 1954 CHAPTER 33

### OPERATION OF ENACTMENTS

#### 24 Service of documents.

- (1) Where an enactment authorises or requires a document to be served by post, whether the word “serve” or any of the words “give”, “deliver” or “send” or any other word is used, the service of the document may be effected by prepaying, registering<sup>F1</sup> and posting an envelope addressed to the person on whom the document is to be served at his usual or last known place of abode or business and containing such document; and, unless the contrary is proved, the document shall be deemed to have been served at the time at which such envelope would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- (2) Where an enactment authorises or requires a document to be served on any person without directing it to be served in a particular manner the service of that document may be effected either—
  - (a) by personal service; or
  - (b) by post in accordance with sub-section (1); or
  - (c) by leaving it for him with some person apparently over the age of sixteen at his usual or last known place of abode or business; or
  - (d) in the case of a corporate body or of any association of persons (whether incorporated or not), by delivering it to the secretary or clerk of the body or association at the registered or principal office of the body or association or serving it by post on such secretary or clerk at such office; or
  - (e) if it is not practicable after reasonable enquiry to ascertain the name or address of an owner, lessee, or occupier of premises on whom the document should be served, by addressing the document to him by the description of “owner” or “lessee” or “occupier” of the premises (naming them) to which the document relates, and by delivering it to some person on the premises or, if there is no person on the premises to whom it can be delivered, by affixing it, or a copy of it, to some conspicuous part of the premises.

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**F1** Recorded delivery service may be used as an alternative, [1963 c. 5 \(NI\)](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 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)*

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

- C1** S. 24 applied (with modifications) by Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/1320 (N.I. 10)), art. 5(1A) (as inserted (27.6.2007) by Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/916 (N.I. 10)), arts. 1(3), **28**); S.R. 2007/302, **art. 2**, Sch.
- C2** S. 24 excluded (10.6.2006) by Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/1220 (N.I. 11)), art. 112E(2) (as inserted by Planning Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1252 (N.I. 7)), arts. 1(4), **21(1)**)
- C3** S. 24 modified by 1988 NI 3  
S. 24 modified (1.6.2006) by Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1254 (N.I. 9)), arts. 1(2), **2(3)** (with arts. 49, 62)
- C4** S. 24 modified by Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/764 (N.I. 8)), art. 30A(8) (as inserted (3.10.2011) by Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (c. 9), **ss. 8**, 18(1); S.R. 2011/332, **art. 2**, Sch.)
- C5** S. 24(1) modified by 2005 NI 1, **arts. 2(7)(a)**, 241  
S. 24(1) modified (1.1.2007) by Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/3336 (N.I. 21)), arts. 1(3)(a), **2(13)** (with arts. 8(8), 121(3), 307)  
S. 24(1) modified (1.4.2007) by Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1459 (N.I. 10)), arts. 1(3), **67(2)**; S.R. 2006/428, **art. 3**
- C6** S. 24(1) modified (29.6.2007) by Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007 (c. 2), **ss. 57(2)(a)**, 60
- C7** S. 24(1) modified (prosp.) by Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (c. 4), **ss. 53**, 59
- C8** S. 24(1) modified (27.3.2009) by Aquatic Animal Health Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009/129), regs. 1(1), **2(7)**
- C9** S. 24(1) modified (22.1.2010) by Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (c. 2), **ss. 58(4)(b)**, 60(1)(c)
- C10** S. 24(1) excluded by S.R. 2005/168, reg. 2(7) (as added (6.4.2010) by Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (S.R. 2010/111), **reg. 4(c)**)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/01/2006. This version of this provision has been superseded.

**Changes to legislation:**

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