

SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

**2005 No. 125**

**GENDER RECOGNITION**

The Gender Recognition (Disclosure of Information) (Scotland) Order 2005

Made	- - - -	3rd March 2005
Laid before the Scottish Parliament	- - - -	3rd March 2005
Coming into force	- -	4th April 2005

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 22(5), (6) and (7) of the Gender Recognition Act 2004(1), hereby make the following Order:

PROSPECTIVE

**Citation, commencement and extent**

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Gender Recognition (Disclosure of Information) (Scotland) Order 2005 and shall come into force on 4th April 2005.

(2) This Order extends to Scotland only.

**Commencement Information**

II Art. 1 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

**Interpretation**

2. In this Order—

“the Act” means the Gender Recognition Act 2004;

“the 1986 Act” means the Insolvency Act 1986(2);

“the 1989 Order” means the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(3); and

“the subject”, in relation to any protected information, means a person to whom any protected information relates.

(1) 2004 c. 7.

(2) 1986 c. 45.

(3) S.I.1989/2405 (N.I. 19).

*Status: This version of this Instrument contains provisions that are prospective.*

**Changes to legislation:** There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Gender Recognition (Disclosure of Information) (Scotland) Order 2005. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

#### Commencement Information

**I2** Art. 2 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

#### Disclosure for purpose of obtaining legal advice

**3.** It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act to disclose protected information for the purpose of obtaining legal advice.

#### Commencement Information

**I3** Art. 3 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

#### Disclosure for religious purposes

**4.—(1)** It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act for a person who acquired protected information in an official capacity in relation to an organised religion to disclose that information to any other person acting in such a capacity if the conditions set out in paragraphs (2) and (3) are met.

(2) The disclosure is made for the purpose of enabling any person to make a decision in relation to—

- (a) whether to solemnise or permit the marriage of the subject;
- (b) the validity or dissolution of a marriage of the subject;
- (c) the admission or appointment of the subject—
  - (i) as a minister of religion;
  - (ii) to any employment, office or post for the purposes of an organised religion;
  - (iii) to any religious order or community associated with an organised religion; or
  - (iv) to membership, or any category of membership, of an organised religion;
- (d) the validity, suspension, termination or revocation of any admission or appointment mentioned in sub-paragraph (c); or
- (e) the eligibility of the subject to receive or take part in any religious sacrament, ordinance or rite, or take part in any act of worship or prayer, according to the practices of an organised religion.

(3) The disclosure is made for the purpose of enabling any person to make a decision in relation to the matters specified in paragraph (2)(c), (d) or (e) and the person who makes the disclosure reasonably believes that the person to whom the disclosure is made may require the information in order to make a decision in a way which complies with the doctrines of the religion or avoids conflicting with the strongly held convictions of a significant number of the followers of the religion.

(4) It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act for a person who acquired protected information in an official capacity in relation to an organised religion, and who requires to make a decision in relation to the any of the matters specified in paragraph (2), to disclose that information to any person responsible for the supervision of the person making the disclosure.

#### Commencement Information

**I4** Art. 4 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

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## Disclosure for medical purposes

- 5.—(1) It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act to disclose protected information if—
- (a) the disclosure is made to a health professional;
  - (b) the disclosure is made for medical purposes; and
  - (c) the person making the disclosure reasonably believes that the subject has given consent to the disclosure or cannot give such consent.
- (2) For the purposes of this article—
- (a) “medical purposes” includes the purposes of preventative medicine, medical diagnosis and the provision of care and treatment; and
  - (b) “health professional” means—
    - (i) a registered medical practitioner;
    - (ii) a registered dentist within the meaning of section 53(1) of the Dentists Act 1984(4);
    - (iii) a registered pharmaceutical chemist within the meaning of section 24(1) of the Pharmacy Act 1954(5) or a registered person within the meaning of article 2(2) of the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976(6);
    - (iv) a registered nurse;
    - (v) any person who is registered under the Health Professions Order 2001(7) as a paramedic or operating department practitioner; and
    - (vi) a person employed in a trainee capacity in any of the professions specified in this sub-paragraph.

### Commencement Information

**I5** Art. 5 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

## Credit reference agencies

- 6.—(1) It is not an offence under sections 22 of the Act to disclose protected information if—
- (a) the disclosure is made by or on behalf of a credit reference agency;
  - (b) the information consists of information contained in an order of a court or tribunal; and
  - (c) if the credit reference agency has been informed that a full gender recognition certificate has been issued to the subject, the disclosure also contains that information.
- (2) It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act for a person, when making a disclosure under paragraph (1), also to disclose information taken from an electoral register.
- (3) For the purposes of this article “credit reference agency” has the meaning given in section 145(8) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974(8).

### Commencement Information

**I6** Art. 6 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

(4) 1984 c. 24.  
(5) 1954 c. 61.  
(6) S.I. 1976/1213 (N.I. 22).  
(7) S.I. 2002/254.  
(8) 1974 c. 39.

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## Insolvency and Bankruptcy

- 7.—(1) It is not an offence under section 22 of the Act to disclose protected information if—
- (a) the disclosure is made by or to a relevant officeholder;
  - (b) the disclosure is necessary for the relevant officeholder to perform functions under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985<sup>(9)</sup>, the 1986 Act, the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986<sup>(10)</sup>, the 1989 Order, and the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002<sup>(11)</sup>; and
  - (c) if the person making the disclosure knows or believes that a full gender recognition certificate has been issued to the subject, that information.
- (2) For the purposes of this article “relevant officeholder” means—
- (a) The Accountant in Bankruptcy, or any interim or permanent trustee or trustee acting under a trust deed for creditors within the meaning given by the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985;
  - (b) the official receiver within the meaning given by section 399(1) of the 1986 Act or article 2 of the 1989 Order, in whatever capacity the official receiver is acting; or
  - (c) a person acting as an insolvency practitioner within the meaning given by section 388 of the 1986 Act or article 3 of the 1989 Order.

### Commencement Information

**I7** Art. 7 in force at 4.4.2005, see [art. 1\(1\)](#)

St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh  
3rd March 2005

CATHY JAMIESON  
A member of the Scottish Executive

<sup>(9)</sup> 1985 c. 66 as amended by the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1993 (c. 6).

<sup>(10)</sup> 1986 c. 46.

<sup>(11)</sup> S.I. 2002/3150 (N.I. 14).

**Status:** This version of this Instrument contains provisions that are prospective.

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PROSPECTIVE

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

Section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (“the Act”) provides that it is an offence for a person who has acquired protected information in an official capacity to disclose the information to any other person. “Protected information” is defined in section 22(2) as information relating to a person who has applied for a gender recognition certificate under the Act, and which concerns that application (or a subsequent application by them), or their gender prior to being granted a full gender recognition certificate.

Section 22(4) sets out certain circumstances where disclosure of protected information does not constitute an offence (for example, where person to whom the information relates is not identifiable, or has agreed to the disclosure). This Order prescribes additional circumstances where the disclosure of protected information does not constitute an offence. These concern disclosure for the purpose of obtaining legal advice (article 3), religious purposes (article 4), disclosure for medical purposes (article 5), disclosure by or on behalf of a credit reference agency (article 6), and disclosure for purposes in relation to insolvency or bankruptcy (article 7).

In some cases, the Order requires the disclosure to include the information that a full gender recognition certificate has been issued to the person to whom the information relates (“the subject” as defined in article 2). The effect of including this information is that the person to whom the disclosure is made will not be able to disclose the information to a third person in reliance on section 22(4)(c) of the Act (which permits disclosure where the person making it does not know or believe that a full gender recognition certificate has been issued).

**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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

- art. 1 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 2 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 3 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 4 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 5 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 5(2)(b)(v) words substituted by [S.I. 2012/1479 Sch. para. 47](#)
- art. 5(2)(b)(v) words substituted by [S.I. 2019/1094 Sch. 2 para. 20](#) (This amendment comes into force on the date on which Children and Social Work Act 2017 (c. 16), s. 39(1) comes into force. That provision comes into force on 2.12.2019 by S.I. 2019/1436, reg. 2(b))
- art. 5(2)(b)(iii) words inserted by [S.I. 2007/3101 reg. 102](#)
- art. 5(2)(b)(iii) words substituted by [S.I. 2007/289 Sch. 1 para. 45](#)
- art. 5(2)(b)(iii) words substituted by [S.I. 2009/1182 Sch. 4 para. 29](#) (This effect comes into force on the coming into force of art. 21 of The Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/289). That provision was brought into force on 1.7.2009 as notified in the London Gazette dated 19.6.2009 (Issue 59104))
- art. 6 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)
- art. 6(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/1881 Sch. para. 28](#)
- art. 7 coming into force by [S.S.I. 2005/125 art. 1\(1\)](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Order applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2009/317 art. 3Sch.](#)
- Order applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2011/245 Sch. 6 Pt. 1](#)
- Order applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2021/716 Sch. 3 para. 23](#)