



Contempt of Court Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 49

Strict liability

2 Limitation of scope of strict liability.

- (1) The strict liability rule applies only in relation to publications, and for this purpose “publication” includes any speech, writing, [^{F1}programme included in a cable programme service] or other communication in whatever form, which is addressed to the public at large or any section of the public.
 - (2) The strict liability rule applies only to a publication which creates a substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question will be seriously impeded or prejudiced.
 - (3) The strict liability rule applies to a publication only if the proceedings in question are active within the meaning of this section at the time of the publication.
 - (4) Schedule 1 applies for determining the times at which proceedings are to be treated as active within the meaning of this section.
- [^{F2}(5) In this section “programme service” has the same meaning as in the Broadcasting Act 1990.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words substituted by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), s. 203(1), [Sch. 20 para. 31\(1\)\(a\)](#): words were previously added by [Broadcasting Act 1984 \(c. 46 SIF 96\)](#), s. 57(1), Sch. 5 para. 39(1)
- F2** [S. 2\(5\)](#) inserted by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), s. 203(1), [Sch. 20](#), para. 31(1)(b)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Contempt of Court Act 1981, Section 2.