



Official Secrets Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 6

An Act to replace section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 by provisions protecting more limited classes of official information. [11th May 1989]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act extended with modifications (30.06.1992) by [S.I. 1992/1301, art.2.](#)
- C2** Act extended (1.12.1998) by [1998 c. 38, s. 53\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 139\(2\), 143\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1998/2789, art. 2](#)
Act extended (1.12.1998) by [1998 c. 38, s. 90\(7\)](#) (with [ss. 139\(2\), 143\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1998/2789, art. 2](#)
Act extended (1.12.1998) by [1998 c. 38, s. 92\(7\)](#) (with [ss. 139\(2\), 143\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1998/2789, art. 2](#)
- C3** Act extended (1.2.1999) by [1998 c. 38, s. 111, Sch. 9 Pt. I para. 2\(3\)](#) (with [ss. 138\(2\), 143\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1999/118, art. 2.](#)
Act extended (1.7.1999) by [1993 c. 46, Sch. 1A para. 2\(2\)](#) (as inserted (1.7.1999) by [1998 c. 38, s. 112, Sch. 10 para. 17](#) (with [ss. 138\(2\), 143\(2\)](#))); [S.I. 1999/1290, art. 4.](#)
- C4** Act extended (1.3.1999) by [S.I. 1998/3162 \(N.I. 21\), art. 93\(5\)](#); [S.R. 1999/81, art. 3.](#)
- C5** Act: transfer of certain functions (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672, art. 2, Sch. 1](#)
- C6** Act extended (1.4.2006) by [Public Services Ombudsman \(Wales\) Act 2005 \(c. 10\), s. 40, Sch. 1 para. 11\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2005/2800, art. 5\(1\)\(3\)](#)
- C7** Act extended (1.4.2006) by [Public Services Ombudsman \(Wales\) Act 2005 \(c. 10\), s. 40, Sch. 1 para. 13\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2005/2800, art. 5\(1\)\(3\)](#)
- C8** Act extended by [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\), s. 145, Sch. 8 para. 7\(6\)](#) (with [Sch. 11 para. 22](#)), the amending provision coming into force immediately after "the 2007 election" (held on 3.5.2007) subject to s. 161(1)(4)(5) of the amending Act, which provides for certain provisions to come into force for specified purposes immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) - see [ss. 46, 161\(4\)\(5\)](#) of the amending Act.
- C9** Act extended by [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\), s. 145, Sch. 8 para. 3\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 11 para. 22](#)), the amending provision coming into force immediately after "the 2007 election" (held on 3.5.2007) subject to s. 161(1)(4)(5) of the amending Act, which provides for certain provisions to come into force for specified purposes immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended

Changes to legislation: Official Secrets Act 1989, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 August 2023. 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

with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) - see ss. 46, 161(4)(5) of the amending Act.

- C10** Act extended by [Government of Wales Act 2006 \(c. 32\)](#), **s. 92** (with [Sch. 11 para. 22](#)), the amending provision coming into force immediately after "the 2007 election" (held on 3.5.2007) subject to s. 161(1)(4)(5) of the amending Act, which provides for certain provisions to come into force for specified purposes immediately after the end of "the initial period" (which ended with the day of the first appointment of a First Minister on 25.5.2007) - see ss. 46, 161(4)(5) of the amending Act.
- C11** Act modified (10.3.2014) by [Energy Act 2013 \(c. 32\)](#), s. 156(1), **Sch. 7 para. 6**; S.I. 2014/251, art. 3(b)
- C12** Act extended (N.I.) (20.2.2016) by [Public Services Ombudsman Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(c. 4\)](#), **Sch. 1 para. 1(4)**
- C13** Act extended (N.I.) (20.2.2016) by [Public Services Ombudsman Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(c. 4\)](#), **Sch. 1 para. 15(4)**
- C14** Act: functions made exercisable concurrently or jointly with the Welsh Ministers by 2006 c. 32, **Sch. 3A para. 1** (as inserted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), s. 71(4), [Sch. 4 para. 1](#) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); S.I. 2017/1179, **reg. 3(p)**)

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

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 11(4A) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 18 para. 6\(3\)\(c\)](#)