



# Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997

## 1997 CHAPTER 47

### *Redirection of post*

#### **21 Information about redirection of post.**

- (1) After section 182A of the <sup>M1</sup>Social Security Administration Act 1992 (inserted by section 20(1)) insert—

#### **“182B Requirement to supply information about redirection of post.**

- (1) The Secretary of State or the Northern Ireland Department may require the Post Office or any other person who conveys postal packets to supply information relating to arrangements for the redirection of postal packets to, or to a person supplying services to, the Secretary of State or the Department—
- (a) for use in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences relating to social security; or
  - (b) for use in checking the accuracy of information relating to benefits, contributions or national insurance numbers or to any other matter relating to social security and (where appropriate) amending or supplementing such information.
- (2) A local or other authority administering housing benefit or council tax benefit (including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive) may require the Post Office or any other person who conveys postal packets to supply information relating to arrangements for the redirection of postal packets to the authority or a person authorised to exercise any function of the authority relating to housing benefit or council tax benefit—
- (a) for use in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences relating to such a benefit; or
  - (b) for use in checking the accuracy of information relating to such a benefit and (where appropriate) amending or supplementing such information.

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997, Section 21. (See end of Document for details)

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- (3) Information shall be supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above in such manner and form, and in accordance with such requirements, as may be prescribed.
  - (4) Payments of such amount as the Secretary of State considers reasonable shall be made by a person or authority imposing a requirement under subsection (1) or (2) above in respect of the supply of information in compliance with the requirement.
  - (5) Information supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above shall not be supplied by the recipient to any other person or body unless—
    - (a) it could be supplied to that person or body under either of those subsections; or
    - (b) it is supplied for the purposes of any civil or criminal proceedings relating to the Contributions and Benefits Act, the <sup>M2</sup>Jobseekers Act 1995 or this Act or to any provision of Northern Ireland legislation corresponding to any of them.
  - (6) But where information supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above has been used (in accordance with paragraph (b) of the subsection concerned) in amending or supplementing other information, it is lawful for it to be—
    - (a) supplied to any person or body to whom that other information could be supplied; or
    - (b) used for any purpose for which that other information could be used.
  - (7) In subsections (1) and (2) above “arrangements for the redirection of postal packets” means arrangements made with the Post Office or other person conveying postal packets for the delivery of postal packets to addresses other than those indicated by senders on the packets.
  - (8) In this section “postal packet” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M3</sup>Post Office Act 1953.”
- (2) After section 158A of the <sup>M4</sup>Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (inserted by section 20(2)) insert—

**“158B Requirement to supply information about redirection of post.**

- (1) The Department or the Secretary of State may require the Post Office or any other person who conveys postal packets to supply information relating to arrangements for the redirection of postal packets to, or to a person supplying services to, the Department or the Secretary of State—
  - (a) for use in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences relating to social security; or
  - (b) for use in checking the accuracy of information relating to benefits, contributions or national insurance numbers or to any other matter relating to social security and (where appropriate) amending or supplementing such information.
- (2) The Housing Executive or any other local or other authority administering housing benefit or council tax benefit may require the Post Office or any other person who conveys postal packets to supply information relating to arrangements for the redirection of postal packets to the authority or a person

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authorised to exercise any function of the authority relating to housing benefit or council tax benefit—

- (a) for use in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences relating to such a benefit; or
  - (b) for use in checking the accuracy of information relating to such a benefit and (where appropriate) amending or supplementing such information.
- (3) Information shall be supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above in such manner and form, and in accordance with such requirements, as may be prescribed.
- (4) Payments of such amount as the Department considers reasonable shall be made by a person or authority imposing a requirement under subsection (1) or (2) above in respect of the supply of information in compliance with the requirement.
- (5) Information supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above shall not be supplied by the recipient to any other person or body unless—
- (a) it could be supplied to that person or body under either of those subsections; or
  - (b) it is supplied for the purposes of any civil or criminal proceedings relating to the Contributions and Benefits Act, the <sup>M5</sup>Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or this Act or to any enactment applying in Great Britain corresponding to any of them.
- (6) But where information supplied under subsection (1) or (2) above has been used (in accordance with paragraph (b) of the subsection concerned) in amending or supplementing other information, it is lawful for it to be—
- (a) supplied to any person or body to whom that other information could be supplied; or
  - (b) used for any purpose for which that other information could be used.
- (7) In subsections (1) and (2) above “arrangements for the redirection of postal packets” means arrangements made with the Post Office or other person conveying postal packets for the delivery of postal packets to addresses other than those indicated by senders on the packets.
- (8) In this section “postal packet” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M6</sup>Post Office Act 1953.”

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#### Extent Information

**E1** S. 21(1) does not extend to Northern Ireland; s. 21(2) extends only to Northern Ireland see s. 23(1)(2).

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#### Commencement Information

**I1** S. 21 partly in force; s. 21 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 25; s. 21(1) in force at 16.11.1998 by S.I. 1998/2779, art. 2; s. 21(2) in force (5.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/1046, art. 2

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#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1992 c. 5.  
**M2** 1995 c. 18.  
**M3** 1953 c. 36.  
**M4** 1992 c. 8.

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**M5** S.I. 1995/2705 (N.I.15).

**M6** 1953 c. 36.

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