



# Law Officers Act 1997

## 1997 CHAPTER 60

An Act to enable functions of the Attorney General and of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland to be exercised by the Solicitor General; and for connected purposes. [31st July 1997]

**B**E 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:—

**1.—(1)** Any function of the Attorney General may be exercised by the Solicitor General.

The Attorney General and the Solicitor General.

(2) Anything done by or in relation to the Solicitor General in the exercise of or in connection with a function of the Attorney General has effect as if done by or in relation to the Attorney General.

(3) The validity of anything done in relation to the Attorney General, or done by or in relation to the Solicitor General, is not affected by a vacancy in the office of Attorney General.

(4) Nothing in this section—

- (a) prevents anything being done by or in relation to the Attorney General in the exercise of or in connection with any function of his; or
- (b) requires anything done by the Solicitor General to be done in the name of the Solicitor General instead of the name of the Attorney General.

(5) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section whether a function of the Attorney General arises under an enactment or otherwise.

**2.—(1)** Any function of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland may be exercised by the Solicitor General for England and Wales.

The Attorney General for Northern Ireland and the Solicitor General.

(2) Anything done by or in relation to the Solicitor General in the exercise of or in connection with a function of the Attorney General has effect as if done by or in relation to the Attorney General.

(3) The validity of anything done in relation to the Attorney General, or done by or in relation to the Solicitor General, is not affected by a vacancy in the office of Attorney General.

(4) Nothing in this section—

- (a) prevents anything being done by or in relation to the Attorney General in the exercise of or in connection with any function of his; or
- (b) requires anything done by the Solicitor General to be done in the name of the Solicitor General instead of the name of the Attorney General.

(5) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section whether a function of the Attorney General arises under an enactment or otherwise.

(6) In this section “Attorney General” means the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Short title,  
repeals,  
commencement  
and extent.

3.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Law Officers Act 1997.

(2) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act (which include spent provisions and provisions conferring specific functions on the Solicitor General concurrently with the Attorney General or the Attorney General for Northern Ireland) are repealed to the extent specified.

(3) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the date on which it is passed.

(4) Any repeal made by this Act has the same extent as the enactment being repealed.

(5) Subject to subsection (4), this Act extends to Northern Ireland.

## SCHEDULE

Section 3(2).

## REPEALS

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
2 & 3 Vict. c. 47.	Metropolitan Police Act 1839.	In section 40, the words "or solicitor".
32 & 33 Vict. c. 24.	Newspapers, Printers, and Reading Rooms Repeal Act 1869.	In Schedule 2, in the entries relating to section 4 of 2 & 3 Vict. c. 12 and section 1 of 9 & 10 Vict. c. 33, the words "or Solicitor General".
46 & 47 Vict. c. 3.	Explosive Substances Act 1883.	In section 9(1), the words from "and in case" to the end.
52 & 53 Vict. c. 69.	Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889.	In section 4(2), the words "or Solicitor" (in the first place they appear) and the words from "and as respects Ireland" to the end.
6 Edw. 7 c. 34.	Prevention of Corruption Act 1906.	In section 2(1), the words "or Solicitor-General" (in the first place they appear) and the words from "and in Ireland" to the end.
1 & 2 Geo. 5 c. 28.	Official Secrets Act 1911.	In section 12, the words "or Solicitor" (in both places).
17 & 18 Geo. 5 c. 12.	Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act 1927.	In section 1(3), the words "or the Solicitor-General".
1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6 c. 6.	Public Order Act 1936.	Section 9(2).
2 & 3 Geo. 6 c. 13.	Cancer Act 1939.	In section 4(6), the words "or the Solicitor-General".
7 & 8 Geo. 6 c. 25.	Law Officers Act 1944.	Section 1.
1973 c. 36.	Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973.	Section 10(2) and (3).
1983 c. 2.	Representation of the People Act 1983.	In section 202(1), the definition of "Attorney General".

© Crown copyright 1997

Printed in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited  
under the authority and superintendence of Peter Macdonald, Controller of  
Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament

**Published by The Stationery Office Limited**

and available from:

**The Publications Centre**

(Mail, telephone and fax orders only)  
PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT  
General enquiries 0171 873 0011  
Telephone orders 0171 873 9090  
Fax orders 0171 873 8200

**The Stationery Office Bookshops**

49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB  
(counter service and fax orders only)  
Fax 0171 831 1326  
68-69 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AD  
0121 236 9696 Fax 0121 236 9699  
33 Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ  
0117 9264306 Fax 0117 9294515  
9-21 Princess Street, Manchester M60 8AS  
0161 834 7201 Fax 0161 833 0634  
16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD  
01232 238451 Fax 01232 235401  
The Stationery Office Oriel Bookshop  
The Friary, Cardiff CF1 4AA  
01222 395548 Fax 01222 384347  
71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ  
(counter service only)

In addition customers in Scotland may mail,  
telephone or fax their orders to:  
Scottish Publication Sales,  
South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB  
0131 479 3141 Fax 0131 479 3142

**The Parliamentary Bookshop**

12 Bridge Street, Parliament Square,  
London SW1A 2JX  
Telephone orders 0171 219 3890  
General enquiries 0171 219 3890  
Fax orders 0171 219 3866

**Accredited Agents**

(see Yellow Pages)

*and through good booksellers*

LONDON: THE STATIONERY OFFICE

ISBN 0-10-549897-1



9 780105 498971