



Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005

2005 CHAPTER 11

Information

19 Wrongful disclosure

- (1) A person commits an offence if he contravenes section 18(1) [^{F1}or (2A)]^{F2}... or 20(9) by disclosing revenue and customs information relating to a person whose identity—
 - (a) is specified in the disclosure, or
 - (b) can be deduced from it.
- (2) In subsection (1) “revenue and customs information relating to a person” means information about, acquired as a result of, or held in connection with the exercise of a function of the Revenue and Customs (within the meaning given by section 18(4)(c)) in respect of the person; but it does not include information about internal administrative arrangements of Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (whether relating to Commissioners, officers or others).
- (3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section of disclosing information to prove that he reasonably believed—
 - (a) that the disclosure was lawful, or
 - (b) that the information had already and lawfully been made available to the public.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
 - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, to a fine or to both, or
 - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.
- (5) A prosecution for an offence under this section may be instituted in England and Wales [^{F3}only by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.]

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2018. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, Section 19 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 April 2024. 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)

- (6) A prosecution for an offence under this section may be instituted in Northern Ireland only—
- (a) by the Commissioners, or
 - (b) with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.
- (7) In the application of this section to Scotland or Northern Ireland the reference in subsection (4)(b) to 12 months shall be taken as a reference to six months.
- (8) This section is without prejudice to the pursuit of any remedy or the taking of any action in relation to a contravention of section 18(1) [^{F4}or (2A)]^{F5}... or 20(9) (whether or not this section applies to the contravention).

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 19(1) inserted (23.5.2016) by Scotland Act 2016 (c. 11), ss. **16(7)**, 72(3)
- F2** Words in s. 19(1) omitted (1.1.2015) by virtue of The Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/3294), arts. 1(2), **4(1)(b)(i)**
- F3** Words in s. 19(5) substituted (27.3.2014) by The Public Bodies (Merger of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/834), art. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 6**
- F4** Words in s. 19(8) inserted (23.5.2016) by Scotland Act 2016 (c. 11), ss. **16(7)**, 72(3)
- F5** Words in s. 19(8) omitted (1.1.2015) by virtue of The Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/3294), arts. 1(2), **4(1)(b)(ii)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 19 applied by 2005 c. 19, s. **352A** (as inserted (19.7.2006) by Finance Act 2006 (c. 25), s. **177**)
- C2** S. 19 applied (with modifications) (15.2.2008) by Serious Crime Act 2007 (c. 27), ss. **85(6)**, 94(1) (with s. 85(8)); S.I. 2008/219, art. 2(a)
- C3** S. 19 modified by 1994 c. 9, s. **41A(3)** (as inserted (17.7.2012) by Finance Act 2012 (c. 14), **Sch. 23 para. 13**)
- C4** S. 19 applied by 2007 c. 3, s. **257SI(6)** (as inserted (17.7.2014) by Finance Act 2014 (c. 26), **Sch. 11 para. 1**)
- C5** S. 19 applied by 2013 c. 7, s. 14A(3) (as inserted (17.7.2014) by Finance Act 2014 (c. 26), s. **93(1)**)
- C6** S. 19 applied (26.5.2015) by Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), ss. **5(4)**, 115(7); S.I. 2015/994, art. 6(c)
- C7** S. 19 applied by 2009 c. 22, s. 40C(2) (as inserted (4.7.2016) by Enterprise Act 2016 (c. 12), ss. **26(1)**, 44(5); S.I. 2016/695, art. 2(a))
- C8** S. 19 applied (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), ss. **7(10)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(a)
- C9** S. 19 applied (cond.) (20.7.2016) by Childcare Payments Act 2014 (c. 28), ss. **28**, 75(2); S.I. 2016/763, reg. 2(1)
- C10** S. 19 applied (1.10.2016) by Housing and Planning Act 2016 (c. 22), ss. **83(7)**, 90(7), 216(3); S.I. 2016/956, reg. 2(a)
- C11** S. 19 applied (17.1.2017) by Savings (Government Contributions) Act 2017 (c. 2), s. 6(2)(3), **Sch. 2 para. 17(4)**
- C12** S. 19 applied (17.1.2017) by Savings (Government Contributions) Act 2017 (c. 2), s. 6(2)(3), **Sch. 1 para. 18(5)**
- C13** S. 19 applied (16.11.2017 for specified purposes) by Finance (No. 2) Act 2017 (c. 32), ss. **52(4)**, 59(1)
- C14** S. 19(3)(4) applied by 1995 c. 32, s. **12B(2)** (as inserted (with effect in accordance with s. 40(7) of the amending Act) by London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 (c. 12), s. 40(2), **Sch. 3 para. 14** (with s. 40(5)); S.I. 2007/1064, art. 2(c); S.I. 2007/1064, art. 2(c))
- C15** S. 19(4)-(7) applied (26.5.2015) by Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (c. 26), ss. **9(5)**, 164(3)(a)(iii)

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- C16** S. 19(4)-(7) applied by S.I. 2015/310, reg. 29A(3) (as inserted (22.2.2018) by [The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/98\)](#), regs. 1(2), **25**)
- C17** S. 19(4)-(7) applied (1.4.2018 for specified purposes) by [Digital Economy Act 2017 \(c. 30\)](#), **ss. 42(5)**, 118(4)(5); S.I. 2018/342, reg. 3(1)(f)
- C18** S. 19(4)-(7) applied (1.4.2018 for specified purposes) by [Digital Economy Act 2017 \(c. 30\)](#), **ss. 67(10)**, 118(4)(5); S.I. 2018/342, reg. 3(2)
- C19** S. 19(7) applied by 1995 c. 32, s. 12B(2) (as inserted (with effect in accordance with s. 40(7) of the amending Act) by [London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 40(2), **Sch. 3 para. 14** (with s. 40(5)); S.I. 2007/1064, art. 2(c))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 19 in force at 7.4.2005 by [S.I. 2005/1126](#), **art. 2(1)**

Status:

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