
Changes to legislation: Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Paragraph 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 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) [View outstanding changes](#)

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 6

OFFENCES

PART 2

OFFENCES RELATING TO WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE

- 7 (1) It is an offence for a person to do anything that is intended to have the effect of—
- (a) distorting or otherwise altering any evidence, document or other thing that is given, produced or provided for the purposes of an investigation under this Part of this Act, or
 - (b) preventing any evidence, document or other thing from being given, produced or provided for the purposes of such an investigation,
- or to do anything that the person knows or believes is likely to have that effect.
- (2) It is an offence for a person—
- (a) intentionally to suppress or conceal a document that is, and that the person knows or believes to be, a relevant document, or
 - (b) intentionally to alter or destroy such a document.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2) a document is a “relevant document” if it is likely that a person conducting an investigation under this Part of this Act would (if aware of its existence) wish to be provided with it.
- (4) A person does not commit an offence under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) by doing anything that is authorised or required—
- (a) by a senior coroner or the Coroner for Treasure, or
 - (b) by virtue of paragraph 2 of Schedule 5 or any privilege that applies.
- (5) Proceedings for an offence under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) may be instituted only by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or to both.

Commencement Information

II Sch. 6 para. 7 in force at 25.7.2013 by [S.I. 2013/1869](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

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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. 11A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 1A inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 11 para. 1\(2\)](#)