



Investigatory Powers Act 2016

2016 CHAPTER 25

PART 2

LAWFUL INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

CHAPTER 2

OTHER FORMS OF LAWFUL INTERCEPTION

Interception for administrative or enforcement purposes

47 Postal services: interception for enforcement purposes

- (1) The interception of a communication in the course of its transmission by means of a public postal service is authorised by this section if it is carried out by an officer of Revenue and Customs under section 159 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, as applied by virtue of—
- (a) section 105 of the Postal Services Act 2000 (power to open postal items etc.), or
 - (b) that section and another enactment.
- (2) The interception of a communication in the course of its transmission by means of a public postal service is authorised by this section if it is carried out under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (port and border controls) [^{F1}or under paragraph 9 of Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 (border security)] .

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 47(2) inserted (13.8.2020) by [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 27(2)(d), [Sch. 4 para. 33](#); S.I. 2020/792, reg. 2(i)

Changes to legislation: *Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 47 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 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](#)*

Commencement Information

II S. 47 in force at 27.6.2018 by [S.I. 2018/652](#), **reg. 8(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):

- Sch. 3 para. 8A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 18 para. 10\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 20(2)(ha)(hb) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 18 para. 10\(3\)\(a\)](#)