



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

48 Interception by OFCOM in connection with wireless telegraphy

- (1) Conduct falling within subsection (2) is authorised by this section if it is carried out by OFCOM for purposes connected with a relevant matter (see subsection (3)).
- (2) The conduct referred to in subsection (1) is—
 - (a) the interception of a communication in the course of its transmission by means of a telecommunication system;
 - (b) the obtaining, by or in connection with the interception, of information about the sender or recipient, or intended recipient, of the communication (whether or not a person);
 - (c) the disclosure of anything obtained by conduct falling within paragraph (a) or (b).
- (3) Each of the following is a relevant matter for the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - (a) the grant of wireless telegraphy licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”);
 - (b) the prevention or detection of anything which constitutes interference with wireless telegraphy;
 - (c) the enforcement of—

Changes to legislation: Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 48 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 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

- (i) any provision of Part 2 (other than Chapter 2 and sections 27 to 31) or Part 3 of the 2006 Act, or
 - (ii) any enactment not falling within sub-paragraph (i) that relates to interference with wireless telegraphy.
- (4) In this section—
- “interference”, in relation to wireless telegraphy, has the same meaning as in the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (see section 115(3) of that Act);
 - “OFCOM” means the Office of Communications established by section 1 of the Office of Communications Act 2002;
 - “wireless telegraphy” has the same meaning as in the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (see section 116 of that Act).

Commencement Information

II [S. 48](#) 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\(3\)\(a\)](#)