



National Security Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

ESPIONAGE, SABOTAGE AND PERSONS ACTING FOR FOREIGN POWERS

Entering and inspecting places used for defence etc

4 Entering etc a prohibited place for a purpose prejudicial to the UK

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person—
 - (i) accesses, enters, inspects, passes over or under, approaches or is in the vicinity of a prohibited place, or
 - (ii) causes an unmanned vehicle or device to access, enter, inspect, pass over or under, approach or be in the vicinity of a prohibited place, and
 - (b) that conduct is for a purpose that the person knows, or having regard to other matters known to them ought reasonably to know, is prejudicial to the safety or interests of the United Kingdom.
- (2) In [subsection \(1\)\(a\)](#) a reference to inspecting a prohibited place includes—
 - (a) taking, or procuring the taking of, photographs, videos or other recordings of the prohibited place;
 - (b) inspecting photographs, videos or other recordings of the prohibited place.
- (3) For the purposes of [this section](#), a person engages in conduct mentioned in [subsection \(1\)\(a\)](#) if the person does so in person or by electronic or remote means.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies whether the person's conduct takes place in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (5) A person who commits an offence under [this section](#) is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years or a fine (or both).
- (6) In this Part “vehicle” means any form of transport.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Security Act 2023, Section 4. (See end of Document for details)

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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 4 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 100\(1\)](#)
- I2** S. 4 in force at 20.12.2023 by [S.I. 2023/1272](#), [reg. 2\(a\)](#)

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