



# Post Office Act 1953

## CHAPTER 36

### POST OFFICE ACT 1953

#### *Postmaster-General and officers*

- 1 Appointment of Postmaster-General
- 2 General powers of Postmaster-General

#### *Postmaster-General's privilege*

- 3 Exclusive privilege of Postmaster-General
- 4 Infringement of Postmaster-General's privilege

#### *General provisions as to transmission of postal packets*

- 5 Postage to be charged on postal packets
- 6 General provisions relating to postage, etc.
- 7 Provisions as to postage etc. not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid
- 8 Conditions of transit of postal packets
- 9 Decision as to postal packets
- 10 Cash on delivery service
- 11 Prohibition on sending by post of certain articles
- 12 Registration of newspapers at Post Office
- 13 Publications registrable as newspapers
- 14 Supplements to registered newspapers
- 15 Power of Treasury to carry into effect postal arrangements with other countries
- 16 Application of customs Acts to postal packets
- 17 Power to detain postal packets containing contraband
- 18 Recovery of postage
- 19 Post Office mark evidence of amount of postage, etc.

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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### *Money orders*

- 20 Money orders
- 21 Special provisions as to postal orders
- 22 Issuing money orders with fraudulent intent
- 23 Forgery and stealing of money orders
- 24 Arrangements with other countries as to money orders

### *Conveyance of mail bags by ships and aircraft*

- 25 Outward bound ships
- 26 Inward bound ships and aircraft
- 27 Owners' letters
- 28 Retention of postal packets after delivery of part thereof to Post Office
- 29 Carriage of parcels by coasting ships
- 30 Remuneration of owners and masters or commanders of ships or aircraft
- 31 Exemption of certain ships from harbour rates, etc.
- 32 Penalty for opening of mail bag by master or commander of ship or aircraft

### *Conveyance of mail bags by railway undertakers*

- 33 Power to require provision of regular mail trains
- 34 Additional provisions as to regular mail train services
- 35 Remuneration for regular mail train services
- 36 Alteration of regular mail train services
- 37 Review of agreements and awards as to regular mail train services
- 38 Conveyance of mail bags by railway otherwise than as part of regular mail train services
- 39 Bye-laws, etc. of railway undertakers
- 40 Service of notices on railway undertakers
- 41 Offences relating to conveyance of mails by railway
- 42 Conveyance of mail bags on ships used by railway undertakers
- 43 Extension of meaning of expression " railway "

### *Conveyance of mail bags by tramways and public service vehicles*

- 44 Power to require services by tramways and certain public service vehicles
- 45 Additional provisions as to conveyance of mail bags by tramways and public service vehicles

### *Land*

- 46 Holding of land by Postmaster-General
- 47 Power of Postmaster-General to acquire land
- 48 Power of Postmaster-General to dispose of land
- 49 Consent of Treasury to acquisition or disposal of land

### *Extension of postal facilities and accommodation*

- 50 Indemnity on account of extending Post Office accommodation
- 51 Power of local authority to contribute towards new post office or extra postal facilities

### *General Offences*

- 52 Stealing mail bag or postal packet
- 53 Unlawfully taking away or opening mail bag
- 54 Receiver of stolen mail bag or postal packet
- 55 Fraudulent retention of mail bag or postal packet.
- 56 Criminal diversion of letters from addressee.
- 57 Stealing, embezzlement, destruction, etc., by officer of Post Office of postal packet
- 58 Opening or delaying of postal packets by officers of the Post Office
- 59 Carelessness, negligence or misconduct of persons employed in carrying or delivering mail bags, postal packets, etc.
- 60 Prohibition of placing injurious substances in or against post office letter boxes or telephone kiosks
- 61 Prohibition of affixing placards, notices, etc., on post office letter boxes, etc.
- 62 Prohibition of imitation of post office stamps, envelopes, forms and marks
- 63 Prohibition of fictitious stamps
- 64 Prohibition of false notice as to reception of letters, etc.
- 65 Obstruction and molestation of officers of the Post Office
- 66 Prohibition of sending offensive or false telephone messages or false telegrams, etc.
- 67 Provision against hawking opposite General Post Office
- 68 Endeavouring to procure the commission of any felony or misdemeanour

### *Legal Proceedings*

- 69 Summary proceedings
- 70 Venue
- 71 Provisions as to form of proceedings
- 72 Evidence of thing being postal packet, and of consent of Postmaster-General to prosecution
- 73 Power to compound actions, etc.
- 74 Application of fines
- 75 Offences also punishable at common law or under some other Act
- 76 Recovery of sums from officers of Post Office

### *Miscellaneous and General*

- 77 Exemption from toll
- 78 Provision as to post office letter boxes
- 79 Surrender of clothing by officer of Post Office on ceasing to be officer
- 80 Post Office expenses
- 81 Post Office regulations and warrants
- 82 Signature of Treasury warrants, consents, etc.
- 83 Exercise of powers on behalf of Postmaster-General
- 84 Exemption of Postmaster-General from stamp duty
- 85 Alienation of Post Office duties by Crown
- 86 Exemption of officers of Post Office from certain offices
- 87 Interpretation
- 88 Application to Northern Ireland-general
- 89 Application to Channel Islands-general

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- 90 Application to Isle of Man-general
- 91 Repeals and savings
- 92 Short title

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#### SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE — Provisions with respect to acquisition of land in the United Kingdom by the Postmaster-General

- 1 Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the Lands Clauses...
- 2 In construing the said Acts for the purposes of this...
- 3 The bond required by section eighty-five of the Lands Clauses...
- 4 The provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts with respect to...
- 5 At least three months before an application is made to...
- 6 At some time after the service of the said notice,...
- 7 If after the said inquiry has been held the Treasury...

SECOND SCHEDULE — Section sixty-five of the Post Office Act, 1908, as originally enacted

THIRD SCHEDULE — Enactments Repealed