



# Investigatory Powers Act 2016

## 2016 CHAPTER 25

### PART 6

#### BULK WARRANTS

#### CHAPTER 2

#### BULK ACQUISITION WARRANTS

#### *Bulk acquisition warrants*

#### **159 Approval of warrants by Judicial Commissioners**

- (1) In deciding whether to approve a decision to issue a warrant under section 158, a Judicial Commissioner must review the Secretary of State's conclusions as to the following matters—
- (a) whether the warrant is necessary as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) of that section,
  - (b) whether the conduct that would be authorised by the warrant is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved by that conduct, and
  - (c) whether—
    - (i) each of the specified operational purposes (see section 161) is a purpose for which the examination of communications data obtained under the warrant is or may be necessary, and
    - (ii) the examination of such data for each such purpose is necessary as mentioned in section 158(1)(c)(ii).
- (2) In doing so, the Judicial Commissioner must—
- (a) apply the same principles as would be applied by a court on an application for judicial review, and

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**Changes to legislation:** *Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 159 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 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*

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- (b) consider the matters referred to in subsection (1) with a sufficient degree of care as to ensure that the Judicial Commissioner complies with the duties imposed by section 2 (general duties in relation to privacy).
- (3) Where a Judicial Commissioner refuses to approve a decision to issue a warrant under section 158, the Judicial Commissioner must give the Secretary of State written reasons for the refusal.
- (4) Where a Judicial Commissioner, other than the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, refuses to approve a decision to issue a warrant under section 158, the Secretary of State may ask the Investigatory Powers Commissioner to decide whether to approve the decision to issue the warrant.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 159 in force at 25.7.2018 by S.I. 2018/873, reg. 2(c)

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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. 58(4)(e) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 13 para. 9](#)