



# Investigatory Powers Act 2016

## 2016 CHAPTER 25

### PART 2

#### LAWFUL INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

### CHAPTER 1

#### INTERCEPTION AND EXAMINATION WITH A WARRANT

##### *Implementation of warrants*

#### **43 Duty of operators to assist with implementation**

- (1) A relevant operator that has been served with a copy of a warrant to which section 41 applies by (or on behalf of) the intercepting authority must take all steps for giving effect to the warrant that are notified to the relevant operator by (or on behalf of) the intercepting authority.

This is subject to subsection (4).

- (2) In this section—

“relevant operator” means a postal operator or a telecommunications operator;

“the intercepting authority” has the same meaning as in section 41.

- (3) Subsection (1) applies whether or not the relevant operator is in the United Kingdom.
- (4) The relevant operator is not required to take any steps which it is not reasonably practicable for the relevant operator to take.
- (5) In determining for the purposes of subsection (4) whether it is reasonably practicable for a relevant operator outside the United Kingdom to take any steps in a country or territory outside the United Kingdom for giving effect to a warrant, the matters to be taken into account include the following—

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*Changes to legislation: Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 43 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 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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- (a) any requirements or restrictions under the law of that country or territory that are relevant to the taking of those steps, and
  - (b) the extent to which it is reasonably practicable to give effect to the warrant in a way that does not breach any of those requirements or restrictions.
- (6) Where obligations have been imposed on a relevant operator (“P”) under section 253 (technical capability notices), for the purposes of subsection (4) the steps which it is reasonably practicable for P to take include every step which it would have been reasonably practicable for P to take if P had complied with all of those obligations.
- (7) A person who knowingly fails to comply with subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on summary conviction in England and Wales—
    - (i) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F1</sup>the general limit in a magistrates’ court] (or 6 months, if the offence was committed before [<sup>F2</sup>2 May 2022]), or
    - (ii) to a fine,
 or to both;
  - (b) on summary conviction in Scotland—
    - (i) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or
    - (ii) to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum,
 or to both;
  - (c) on summary conviction in Northern Ireland—
    - (i) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or
    - (ii) to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum,
 or to both;
  - (d) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to a fine, or to both.
- (8) The duty imposed by subsection (1) is enforceable (whether or not the person is in the United Kingdom) by civil proceedings by the Secretary of State for an injunction, or for specific performance of a statutory duty under section 45 of the Court of Session Act 1988, or for any other appropriate relief.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 43(7)(a)(i) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates’ Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/149\)](#), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**
- F2** Words in s. 43(7)(a)(i) substituted (28.4.2022) by [The Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(Commencement No. 33\) and Sentencing Act 2020 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/500\)](#), regs. 1(2), 5(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**

#### Commencement Information

- I1** S. 43 in force at 27.6.2018 by [S.I. 2018/652](#), **reg. 8(o)**

**Changes to legislation:**

Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 43 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 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.

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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](#)