



Terrorism Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 11

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

1 Terrorism: interpretation.

- (1) In this Act “terrorism” means the use or threat of action where—
 - (a) the action falls within subsection (2),
 - (b) the use or threat is designed to influence the government [^{F1}or an international governmental organisation] or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, and
 - (c) the use or threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious [^{F2}, racial] or ideological cause.
- (2) Action falls within this subsection if it—
 - (a) involves serious violence against a person,
 - (b) involves serious damage to property,
 - (c) endangers a person’s life, other than that of the person committing the action,
 - (d) creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public, or
 - (e) is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system.
- (3) The use or threat of action falling within subsection (2) which involves the use of firearms or explosives is terrorism whether or not subsection (1)(b) is satisfied.
- (4) In this section—
 - (a) “action” includes action outside the United Kingdom,
 - (b) a reference to any person or to property is a reference to any person, or to property, wherever situated,
 - (c) a reference to the public includes a reference to the public of a country other than the United Kingdom, and

Status: Point in time view as at 16/02/2009.

Changes to legislation: *Terrorism Act 2000, Part I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 May 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)*

- (d) “the government” means the government of the United Kingdom, of a Part of the United Kingdom or of a country other than the United Kingdom.
- (5) In this Act a reference to action taken for the purposes of terrorism includes a reference to action taken for the benefit of a proscribed organisation.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(1)(b) inserted (13.4.2006) by [Terrorism Act 2006 \(c. 11\)](#), [s. 34](#); [S.I. 2006/1013](#), [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 1(1)(c) inserted (16.2.2009) by [Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 75\(1\)\(2\)\(a\)](#), [100\(5\)](#) (with s. 101(2)); [S.I. 2009/58](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

2 Temporary legislation.

- (1) The following shall cease to have effect—
- (a) the ^{M1}Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989, and
 - (b) the ^{M2}Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996.
- (2) Schedule 1 (which preserves certain provisions of the 1996 Act, in some cases with amendment, for a transitional period) shall have effect.

Commencement Information

- I1** [S. 2](#) wholly in force at 19.2.2001; [s. 2\(1\)\(b\)\(2\)](#) in force at 20.7.2000 see [s. 128](#); [s. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#) in force at 19.2.2001 by [S.I. 2001/421](#), [art. 2](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1989 c. 4.
- M2** 1996 c. 22.

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