



Terrorism Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 11

PART IV

TERRORIST INVESTIGATIONS

Information and evidence

39 Disclosure of information, &c.

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where a person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a constable is conducting or proposes to conduct a terrorist investigation.
- (2) The person commits an offence if he—
 - (a) discloses to another anything which is likely to prejudice the investigation, or
 - (b) interferes with material which is likely to be relevant to the investigation.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies where a person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a disclosure has been or will be made under any of sections 19 to [F121B][F2 or 38B].
- (4) The person commits an offence if he—
 - (a) discloses to another anything which is likely to prejudice an investigation resulting from the disclosure under that section, or
 - (b) interferes with material which is likely to be relevant to an investigation resulting from the disclosure under that section.
- (5) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (2) or (4) to prove—
 - (a) that he did not know and had no reasonable cause to suspect that the disclosure or interference was likely to affect a terrorist investigation, or
 - (b) that he had a reasonable excuse for the disclosure or interference.
- (6) Subsections (2) and (4) do not apply to a disclosure which is made by a professional legal adviser—

Changes to legislation: Terrorism Act 2000, Section 39 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 July 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

- (a) to his client or to his client's representative in connection with the provision of legal advice by the adviser to the client and not with a view to furthering a criminal purpose, or
- (b) to any person for the purpose of actual or contemplated legal proceedings and not with a view to furthering a criminal purpose.

[^{F3}(6A) Subsections (2) and (4) do not apply if—

- (a) the disclosure is of a matter within section 21D(2) or (3)(a) (terrorist property: tipping off), and
- (b) the information on which the disclosure is based came to the person in the course of a business in the regulated sector.]

(7) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—

- (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, to a fine or to both, or
- (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.

(8) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) a reference to conducting a terrorist investigation includes a reference to taking part in the conduct of, or assisting, a terrorist investigation, and
- (b) a person interferes with material if he falsifies it, conceals it, destroys it or disposes of it, or if he causes or permits another to do any of those things.

[^{F4}(9) The reference in subsection (6A) to a business in the regulated sector is to be construed in accordance with Schedule 3A.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 39(3) substituted (26.12.2007) by [The Terrorism Act 2000 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3398\)](#), reg. 2, [Sch. 1 para. 6\(2\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 39(3) inserted (14.12.2001) by [2001 c. 24, s. 117\(3\)](#)
- F3** S. 39(6A) inserted (26.12.2007) by [The Terrorism Act 2000 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3398\)](#), reg. 2, [Sch. 1 para. 6\(3\)](#)
- F4** S. 39(9) inserted (26.12.2007) by [The Terrorism Act 2000 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3398\)](#), reg. 2, [Sch. 1 para. 6\(4\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 39 applied (19.2.2001) by [S.I. 2001/192](#), [reg. 3](#)

Changes to legislation:

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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):

- Sch. 4 para. 11(1)(aa) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 14\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 4 para. 11(2A) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 14\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 4 para. 11(1)(aa) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 11 para. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 4 para. 11(2A) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 Sch. 11 para. 17\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 14(2A) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 16\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 16 repealed (31.10.2013) by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 14(4)(ba) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 16\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 16 repealed (31.10.2013) by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 15(1)(aa)(ab) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 17\(4\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-19 repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 15(2A) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 17\(7\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-19 repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 15(4) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 17\(8\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-19 repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 14F(3)(b) and word omitted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 24 para. 22](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The substitution of Sch. 8 para. 14F was repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 14-14I substituted for Sch. 8 para. 14 by [2010 c. 17 s. 17\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-19 repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 20(3)-(3C) substituted for Sch. 8 para. 20(3) by [2010 c. 17 s. 18\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 16-19 repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))
- Sch. 8 para. 20F(3) words omitted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 24 para. 23](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of Sch. 8 para. 20F was repealed (31.10.2013) without ever being in force by 2012 c. 9, Sch. 9 para. 4(2), Sch. 10 Pt. 1; S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3(c)(d))