



Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 29

VALID FROM 24/02/2003

PART 7

MONEY LAUNDERING

Offences

327 Concealing etc

- (1) A person commits an offence if he—
 - (a) conceals criminal property;
 - (b) disguises criminal property;
 - (c) converts criminal property;
 - (d) transfers criminal property;
 - (e) removes criminal property from England and Wales or from Scotland or from Northern Ireland.
- (2) But a person does not commit such an offence if—
 - (a) he makes an authorised disclosure under section 338 and (if the disclosure is made before he does the act mentioned in subsection (1)) he has the appropriate consent;
 - (b) he intended to make such a disclosure but had a reasonable excuse for not doing so;
 - (c) the act he does is done in carrying out a function he has relating to the enforcement of any provision of this Act or of any other enactment relating to criminal conduct or benefit from criminal conduct.
- (3) Concealing or disguising criminal property includes concealing or disguising its nature, source, location, disposition, movement or ownership or any rights with respect to it.

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328 Arrangements

- (1) A person commits an offence if he enters into or becomes concerned in an arrangement which he knows or suspects facilitates (by whatever means) the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property by or on behalf of another person.
- (2) But a person does not commit such an offence if—
 - (a) he makes an authorised disclosure under section 338 and (if the disclosure is made before he does the act mentioned in subsection (1)) he has the appropriate consent;
 - (b) he intended to make such a disclosure but had a reasonable excuse for not doing so;
 - (c) the act he does is done in carrying out a function he has relating to the enforcement of any provision of this Act or of any other enactment relating to criminal conduct or benefit from criminal conduct.

329 Acquisition, use and possession

- (1) A person commits an offence if he—
 - (a) acquires criminal property;
 - (b) uses criminal property;
 - (c) has possession of criminal property.
- (2) But a person does not commit such an offence if—
 - (a) he makes an authorised disclosure under section 338 and (if the disclosure is made before he does the act mentioned in subsection (1)) he has the appropriate consent;
 - (b) he intended to make such a disclosure but had a reasonable excuse for not doing so;
 - (c) he acquired or used or had possession of the property for adequate consideration;
 - (d) the act he does is done in carrying out a function he has relating to the enforcement of any provision of this Act or of any other enactment relating to criminal conduct or benefit from criminal conduct.
- (3) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a person acquires property for inadequate consideration if the value of the consideration is significantly less than the value of the property;
 - (b) a person uses or has possession of property for inadequate consideration if the value of the consideration is significantly less than the value of the use or possession;
 - (c) the provision by a person of goods or services which he knows or suspects may help another to carry out criminal conduct is not consideration.

330 Failure to disclose: regulated sector

- (1) A person commits an offence if each of the following three conditions is satisfied.
- (2) The first condition is that he—
 - (a) knows or suspects, or
 - (b) has reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting,

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that another person is engaged in money laundering.

- (3) The second condition is that the information or other matter—
 - (a) on which his knowledge or suspicion is based, or
 - (b) which gives reasonable grounds for such knowledge or suspicion,came to him in the course of a business in the regulated sector.
- (4) The third condition is that he does not make the required disclosure as soon as is practicable after the information or other matter comes to him.
- (5) The required disclosure is a disclosure of the information or other matter—
 - (a) to a nominated officer or a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service;
 - (b) in the form and manner (if any) prescribed for the purposes of this subsection by order under section 339.
- (6) But a person does not commit an offence under this section if—
 - (a) he has a reasonable excuse for not disclosing the information or other matter;
 - (b) he is a professional legal adviser and the information or other matter came to him in privileged circumstances;
 - (c) subsection (7) applies to him.
- (7) This subsection applies to a person if—
 - (a) he does not know or suspect that another person is engaged in money laundering, and
 - (b) he has not been provided by his employer with such training as is specified by the Secretary of State by order for the purposes of this section.
- (8) In deciding whether a person committed an offence under this section the court must consider whether he followed any relevant guidance which was at the time concerned—
 - (a) issued by a supervisory authority or any other appropriate body,
 - (b) approved by the Treasury, and
 - (c) published in a manner it approved as appropriate in its opinion to bring the guidance to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it.
- (9) A disclosure to a nominated officer is a disclosure which—
 - (a) is made to a person nominated by the alleged offender's employer to receive disclosures under this section, and
 - (b) is made in the course of the alleged offender's employment and in accordance with the procedure established by the employer for the purpose.
- (10) Information or other matter comes to a professional legal adviser in privileged circumstances if it is communicated or given to him—
 - (a) by (or by a representative of) a client of his in connection with the giving by the adviser of legal advice to the client,
 - (b) by (or by a representative of) a person seeking legal advice from the adviser, or
 - (c) by a person in connection with legal proceedings or contemplated legal proceedings.

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- (11) But subsection (10) does not apply to information or other matter which is communicated or given with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose.
- (12) Schedule 9 has effect for the purpose of determining what is—
 - (a) a business in the regulated sector;
 - (b) a supervisory authority.
- (13) An appropriate body is any body which regulates or is representative of any trade, profession, business or employment carried on by the alleged offender.

331 Failure to disclose: nominated officers in the regulated sector

- (1) A person nominated to receive disclosures under section 330 commits an offence if the conditions in subsections (2) to (4) are satisfied.
- (2) The first condition is that he—
 - (a) knows or suspects, or
 - (b) has reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting, that another person is engaged in money laundering.
- (3) The second condition is that the information or other matter—
 - (a) on which his knowledge or suspicion is based, or
 - (b) which gives reasonable grounds for such knowledge or suspicion, came to him in consequence of a disclosure made under section 330.
- (4) The third condition is that he does not make the required disclosure as soon as is practicable after the information or other matter comes to him.
- (5) The required disclosure is a disclosure of the information or other matter—
 - (a) to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service;
 - (b) in the form and manner (if any) prescribed for the purposes of this subsection by order under section 339.
- (6) But a person does not commit an offence under this section if he has a reasonable excuse for not disclosing the information or other matter.
- (7) In deciding whether a person committed an offence under this section the court must consider whether he followed any relevant guidance which was at the time concerned—
 - (a) issued by a supervisory authority or any other appropriate body,
 - (b) approved by the Treasury, and
 - (c) published in a manner it approved as appropriate in its opinion to bring the guidance to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it.
- (8) Schedule 9 has effect for the purpose of determining what is a supervisory authority.
- (9) An appropriate body is a body which regulates or is representative of a trade, profession, business or employment.

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332 Failure to disclose: other nominated officers

- (1) A person nominated to receive disclosures under section 337 or 338 commits an offence if the conditions in subsections (2) to (4) are satisfied.
- (2) The first condition is that he knows or suspects that another person is engaged in money laundering.
- (3) The second condition is that the information or other matter on which his knowledge or suspicion is based came to him in consequence of a disclosure made under section 337 or 338.
- (4) The third condition is that he does not make the required disclosure as soon as is practicable after the information or other matter comes to him.
- (5) The required disclosure is a disclosure of the information or other matter—
 - (a) to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service;
 - (b) in the form and manner (if any) prescribed for the purposes of this subsection by order under section 339.
- (6) But a person does not commit an offence under this section if he has a reasonable excuse for not disclosing the information or other matter.

333 Tipping off

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) he knows or suspects that a disclosure falling within section 337 or 338 has been made, and
 - (b) he makes a disclosure which is likely to prejudice any investigation which might be conducted following the disclosure referred to in paragraph (a).
- (2) But a person does not commit an offence under subsection (1) if—
 - (a) he did not know or suspect that the disclosure was likely to be prejudicial as mentioned in subsection (1);
 - (b) the disclosure is made in carrying out a function he has relating to the enforcement of any provision of this Act or of any other enactment relating to criminal conduct or benefit from criminal conduct;
 - (c) he is a professional legal adviser and the disclosure falls within subsection (3).
- (3) A disclosure falls within this subsection if it is a disclosure—
 - (a) to (or to a representative of) a client of the professional legal adviser in connection with the giving by the adviser of legal advice to the client, or
 - (b) to any person in connection with legal proceedings or contemplated legal proceedings.
- (4) But a disclosure does not fall within subsection (3) if it is made with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose.

334 Penalties

- (1) A person guilty of an offence under section 327, 328 or 329 is liable—

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- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years or to a fine or to both.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under section 330, 331, 332 or 333 is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine or to both.

Consent

335 Appropriate consent

- (1) The appropriate consent is—
- (a) the consent of a nominated officer to do a prohibited act if an authorised disclosure is made to the nominated officer;
 - (b) the consent of a constable to do a prohibited act if an authorised disclosure is made to a constable;
 - (c) the consent of a customs officer to do a prohibited act if an authorised disclosure is made to a customs officer.
- (2) A person must be treated as having the appropriate consent if—
- (a) he makes an authorised disclosure to a constable or a customs officer, and
 - (b) the condition in subsection (3) or the condition in subsection (4) is satisfied.
- (3) The condition is that before the end of the notice period he does not receive notice from a constable or customs officer that consent to the doing of the act is refused.
- (4) The condition is that—
- (a) before the end of the notice period he receives notice from a constable or customs officer that consent to the doing of the act is refused, and
 - (b) the moratorium period has expired.
- (5) The notice period is the period of seven working days starting with the first working day after the person makes the disclosure.
- (6) The moratorium period is the period of 31 days starting with the day on which the person receives notice that consent to the doing of the act is refused.
- (7) A working day is a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80) in the part of the United Kingdom in which the person is when he makes the disclosure.
- (8) References to a prohibited act are to an act mentioned in section 327(1), 328(1) or 329(1) (as the case may be).
- (9) A nominated officer is a person nominated to receive disclosures under section 338.
- (10) Subsections (1) to (4) apply for the purposes of this Part.

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336 Nominated officer: consent

- (1) A nominated officer must not give the appropriate consent to the doing of a prohibited act unless the condition in subsection (2), the condition in subsection (3) or the condition in subsection (4) is satisfied.
- (2) The condition is that—
 - (a) he makes a disclosure that property is criminal property to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, and
 - (b) such a person gives consent to the doing of the act.
- (3) The condition is that—
 - (a) he makes a disclosure that property is criminal property to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, and
 - (b) before the end of the notice period he does not receive notice from such a person that consent to the doing of the act is refused.
- (4) The condition is that—
 - (a) he makes a disclosure that property is criminal property to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service,
 - (b) before the end of the notice period he receives notice from such a person that consent to the doing of the act is refused, and
 - (c) the moratorium period has expired.
- (5) A person who is a nominated officer commits an offence if—
 - (a) he gives consent to a prohibited act in circumstances where none of the conditions in subsections (2), (3) and (4) is satisfied, and
 - (b) he knows or suspects that the act is a prohibited act.
- (6) A person guilty of such an offence is liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine or to both.
- (7) The notice period is the period of seven working days starting with the first working day after the nominated officer makes the disclosure.
- (8) The moratorium period is the period of 31 days starting with the day on which the nominated officer is given notice that consent to the doing of the act is refused.
- (9) A working day is a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80) in the part of the United Kingdom in which the nominated officer is when he gives the appropriate consent.
- (10) References to a prohibited act are to an act mentioned in section 327(1), 328(1) or 329(1) (as the case may be).
- (11) A nominated officer is a person nominated to receive disclosures under section 338.

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Disclosures

337 Protected disclosures

- (1) A disclosure which satisfies the following three conditions is not to be taken to breach any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).
- (2) The first condition is that the information or other matter disclosed came to the person making the disclosure (the discloser) in the course of his trade, profession, business or employment.
- (3) The second condition is that the information or other matter—
 - (a) causes the discloser to know or suspect, or
 - (b) gives him reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting, that another person is engaged in money laundering.
- (4) The third condition is that the disclosure is made to a constable, a customs officer or a nominated officer as soon as is practicable after the information or other matter comes to the discloser.
- (5) A disclosure to a nominated officer is a disclosure which—
 - (a) is made to a person nominated by the discloser's employer to receive disclosures under this section, and
 - (b) is made in the course of the discloser's employment and in accordance with the procedure established by the employer for the purpose.

338 Authorised disclosures

- (1) For the purposes of this Part a disclosure is authorised if—
 - (a) it is a disclosure to a constable, a customs officer or a nominated officer by the alleged offender that property is criminal property,
 - (b) it is made in the form and manner (if any) prescribed for the purposes of this subsection by order under section 339, and
 - (c) the first or second condition set out below is satisfied.
- (2) The first condition is that the disclosure is made before the alleged offender does the prohibited act.
- (3) The second condition is that—
 - (a) the disclosure is made after the alleged offender does the prohibited act,
 - (b) there is a good reason for his failure to make the disclosure before he did the act, and
 - (c) the disclosure is made on his own initiative and as soon as it is practicable for him to make it.
- (4) An authorised disclosure is not to be taken to breach any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).
- (5) A disclosure to a nominated officer is a disclosure which—
 - (a) is made to a person nominated by the alleged offender's employer to receive authorised disclosures, and
 - (b) is made in the course of the alleged offender's employment and in accordance with the procedure established by the employer for the purpose.

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- (6) References to the prohibited act are to an act mentioned in section 327(1), 328(1) or 329(1) (as the case may be).

339 Form and manner of disclosures

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order prescribe the form and manner in which a disclosure under section 330, 331, 332 or 338 must be made.
- (2) An order under this section may also provide that the form may include a request to the discloser to provide additional information specified in the form.
- (3) The additional information must be information which is necessary to enable the person to whom the disclosure is made to decide whether to start a money laundering investigation.
- (4) A disclosure made in pursuance of a request under subsection (2) is not to be taken to breach any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).
- (5) The discloser is the person making a disclosure mentioned in subsection (1).
- (6) Money laundering investigation must be construed in accordance with section 341(4).
- (7) Subsection (2) does not apply to a disclosure made to a nominated officer.

Interpretation

340 Interpretation

- (1) This section applies for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) Criminal conduct is conduct which—
 - (a) constitutes an offence in any part of the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) would constitute an offence in any part of the United Kingdom if it occurred there.
- (3) Property is criminal property if—
 - (a) it constitutes a person's benefit from criminal conduct or it represents such a benefit (in whole or part and whether directly or indirectly), and
 - (b) the alleged offender knows or suspects that it constitutes or represents such a benefit.
- (4) It is immaterial—
 - (a) who carried out the conduct;
 - (b) who benefited from it;
 - (c) whether the conduct occurred before or after the passing of this Act.
- (5) A person benefits from conduct if he obtains property as a result of or in connection with the conduct.
- (6) If a person obtains a pecuniary advantage as a result of or in connection with conduct, he is to be taken to obtain as a result of or in connection with the conduct a sum of money equal to the value of the pecuniary advantage.

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- (7) References to property or a pecuniary advantage obtained in connection with conduct include references to property or a pecuniary advantage obtained in both that connection and some other.
- (8) If a person benefits from conduct his benefit is the property obtained as a result of or in connection with the conduct.
- (9) Property is all property wherever situated and includes—
 - (a) money;
 - (b) all forms of property, real or personal, heritable or moveable;
 - (c) things in action and other intangible or incorporeal property.
- (10) The following rules apply in relation to property—
 - (a) property is obtained by a person if he obtains an interest in it;
 - (b) references to an interest, in relation to land in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, are to any legal estate or equitable interest or power;
 - (c) references to an interest, in relation to land in Scotland, are to any estate, interest, servitude or other heritable right in or over land, including a heritable security;
 - (d) references to an interest, in relation to property other than land, include references to a right (including a right to possession).
- (11) Money laundering is an act which—
 - (a) constitutes an offence under section 327, 328 or 329,
 - (b) constitutes an attempt, conspiracy or incitement to commit an offence specified in paragraph (a),
 - (c) constitutes aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of an offence specified in paragraph (a), or
 - (d) would constitute an offence specified in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) if done in the United Kingdom.
- (12) For the purposes of a disclosure to a nominated officer—
 - (a) references to a person's employer include any body, association or organisation (including a voluntary organisation) in connection with whose activities the person exercises a function (whether or not for gain or reward), and
 - (b) references to employment must be construed accordingly.
- (13) References to a constable include references to a person authorised for the purposes of this Part by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

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