



Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 36

PART 2

REGULATION OF RADIO SPECTRUM

CHAPTER 5

MISCELLANEOUS

Misuse of wireless telegraphy

48 Interception and disclosure of messages

- (1) A person commits an offence if, [^{F1}without lawful authority] —
 - (a) he uses wireless telegraphy apparatus with intent to obtain information as to the contents, sender or addressee of a message (whether sent by means of wireless telegraphy or not) of which neither he nor a person on whose behalf he is acting is an intended recipient, or
 - (b) he discloses information as to the contents, sender or addressee of such a message.
- (2) A person commits an offence under this section consisting in the disclosure of information only if the information disclosed by him is information that would not have come to his knowledge but for the use of wireless telegraphy apparatus by him or by another person.
- (3) A person does not commit an offence under this section consisting in the disclosure of information if he discloses the information in the course of legal proceedings or for the purpose of a report of legal proceedings.

[^{F2}(3A) A person does not commit an offence under this section consisting in any conduct if the conduct—

Changes to legislation: *Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, Section 48 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 31 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) constitutes an offence under section 3(1) of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (offence of unlawful interception), or
 - (b) would do so in the absence of any lawful authority (within the meaning of section 6 of that Act).]
- (4) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

^{F3}(5)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 48(1) substituted (27.6.2018) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 259(3)**, 272(1) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2018/652](#), [reg. 12\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 20](#))
- F2** [S. 48\(3A\)](#) inserted (27.6.2018) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 259(4)**, 272(1) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2018/652](#), [reg. 12\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 20](#))
- F3** [S. 48\(5\)](#) omitted (27.6.2018) by virtue of [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 259(5)**, 272(1) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2018/652](#), [reg. 12\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 20](#))

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 36](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 111(6)(q) inserted by [2024 c. 13 Sch. 30 para. 29\(b\)](#)