



# Investigatory Powers Act 2016

## 2016 CHAPTER 25

### PART 2

#### LAWFUL INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

### CHAPTER 3

#### OTHER PROVISIONS ABOUT INTERCEPTION

*Restrictions on use or disclosure of material obtained under warrants etc.*

#### **59 Offence of making unauthorised disclosures**

- (1) A person who fails to comply with section 57(1) commits an offence.
- (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction in England and Wales—
    - (i) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months (or 6 months, if the offence was committed before the commencement of section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003), 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;

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (d) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine, or to both.
- (3) In proceedings against any person for an offence under this section in respect of any disclosure, it is a defence for the person to show that the person could not reasonably have been expected, after first becoming aware of the matter disclosed, to take steps to prevent the disclosure.