



Investigatory Powers Act 2016

2016 CHAPTER 25

PART 3

AUTHORISATIONS FOR OBTAINING COMMUNICATIONS DATA

Additional protections

76 Use of a single point of contact

[^{F1}(A1) Before making an application for an authorisation under section 60A, the officer making the application must consult a person who is acting as a single point of contact in relation to the making of applications.]

- (1) Before granting an authorisation [^{F2}under section 61 or 61A], the designated senior officer must consult a person who is acting as a single point of contact in relation to the granting of authorisations.
- (2) But, if the [^{F3}officer or (as the case may be)] designated senior officer considers that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that [^{F4}subsection (A1) or (as the case may be) (1)] should not apply in a particular case, that subsection does not apply in that case.
- (3) Examples of exceptional circumstances include—
 - (a) an imminent threat to life or another emergency, or
 - (b) the interests of national security.
- (4) A person is acting as a single point of contact if that person—
 - (a) is an officer of a relevant public authority, and
 - (b) is responsible for advising—
 - (i) officers of the relevant public authority about applying for authorisations [^{F5}(whether under section 60A, 61 or 61A)], or
 - (ii) designated senior officers of the relevant public authority about granting authorisations.

Changes to legislation: Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 76 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 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

- (5) A person acting as a single point of contact may, in particular, advise an officer of a relevant public authority who is considering whether to apply for an authorisation about—
- (a) the most appropriate methods for obtaining data where the data concerned is processed by more than one telecommunications operator,
 - (b) the cost, and resource implications, for—
 - (i) the relevant public authority concerned of obtaining the data, and
 - (ii) the telecommunications operator concerned of disclosing the data,
 - (c) any unintended consequences of the proposed authorisation, and
 - (d) any issues as to the lawfulness of the proposed authorisation.
- (6) A person acting as a single point of contact may, in particular, advise a designated senior officer who is considering whether to grant an authorisation about—
- (a) whether it is reasonably practical to obtain the data sought in pursuance of the proposed authorisation,
 - (b) the cost, and resource implications, for—
 - (i) the relevant public authority concerned of obtaining the data, and
 - (ii) the telecommunications operator concerned of disclosing the data,
 - (c) any unintended consequences of the proposed authorisation, and
 - (d) any issues as to the lawfulness of the proposed authorisation.
- (7) A person acting as a single point of contact may also provide advice about—
- (a) whether requirements imposed by virtue of an authorisation have been met,
 - (b) the use in support of operations or investigations of communications data obtained in pursuance of an authorisation, and
 - (c) any other effects of an authorisation.
- (8) Nothing in this section prevents a person acting as a single point of contact from also applying for, or being granted, an authorisation or, in the case of a designated senior officer, granting an authorisation.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 76(A1) inserted (5.2.2019) by [The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1123\)](#), reg. 1(4)(d)(5), [Sch. 1 para. 16\(2\)](#) (see S.I. 2019/174, reg. 2(c))
- F2** Words in s. 76(1) inserted (5.2.2019) by [The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1123\)](#), reg. 1(4)(d)(5), [Sch. 1 para. 16\(3\)](#) (see S.I. 2019/174, reg. 2(c))
- F3** Words in s. 76(2) inserted (5.2.2019) by [The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1123\)](#), reg. 1(4)(d)(5), [Sch. 1 para. 16\(4\)\(a\)](#) (see S.I. 2019/174, reg. 2(c))
- F4** Words in s. 76(2) substituted (5.2.2019) by [The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1123\)](#), reg. 1(4)(d)(5), [Sch. 1 para. 16\(4\)\(b\)](#) (see S.I. 2019/174, reg. 2(c))
- F5** Words in s. 76(4)(b)(i) inserted (5.2.2019) by [The Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1123\)](#), reg. 1(4)(d)(5), [Sch. 1 para. 16\(5\)](#) (see S.I. 2019/174, reg. 2(c))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 76 in force at 5.2.2019 by [S.I. 2019/174](#), reg. 2(d)

Changes to legislation:

Investigatory Powers Act 2016, Section 76 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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):

- Pt. 7A inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 2](#)
- Pt. 7B inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 5](#)
- s. 2(1)(ja)(jb) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 6\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 11(3A)(3B) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 12(2B)-(2D) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 14\(4\)](#)
- s. 12(5A)(5B) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 14\(6\)](#)
- s. 26(2)(a) words renumbered as s. 26(2)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 22\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 26(2)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 22\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 26(2A)-(2F) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 62(5A)-(5C) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 15\(4\)](#)
- s. 87(4)(aa) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 16\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 87(4A) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 16\(3\)](#)
- s. 87(6A)(6B) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 20\(2\)](#)
- s. 90(4)-(4B) substituted for s. 90(4) by [2024 c. 9 s. 18\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 90(5A) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 18\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 90(9A)(9B) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 18\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 90(11A) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 18\(2\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 90(14)-(16) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 18\(2\)\(g\)](#)
- s. 94A inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 20\(4\)](#)
- s. 111(3)(a) words renumbered as s. 111(3)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 111(3)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 23\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 111(6)(a) words renumbered as s. 111(6)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 23\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 111(6)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 23\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 111(7A)-(7E) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 23\(4\)](#)
- s. 121(4) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 25](#)
- s. 195/195A substituted for s. 195 by [2024 c. 9 s. 27\(2\)](#)
- s. 200(1)(a) words renumbered as s. 200(1)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(4\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 200(1)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 200(2)(a) words renumbered as s. 200(2)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(4\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 200(2)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 202(5) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 206(8) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 4\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219(9) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 4\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 220(6) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 220(7) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 4\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 225(4)(a) words renumbered as s. 225(4)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(8\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 225(4)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(8\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 225(13)(a) words renumbered as s. 225(13)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(8\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 225(13)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 1\(8\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 225(15) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 4\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 227(6A)(6B) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 227(8)-(8D) substituted for s. 227(8)(9) by [2024 c. 9 s. 8\(2\)](#)
- s. 227(10A) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 227(14) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 8\(6\)](#)
- s. 228(6) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 7\(3\)](#)
- s. 228A inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 9](#)
- s. 229(3E) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 229(8)(fb) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 27\(3\)](#)

- s. 230(1)(d) and word inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 10(3)(b)
- s. 231(10) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 10(4)(b)
- s. 235A inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 11(1)
- s. 255(5A)(5B) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 20(6)
- s. 256A inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 20(7)
- s. 257(3)-(3B) substituted for s. 257(3) by 2024 c. 9 s. 18(5)(a)
- s. 257(4A) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 18(5)(c)
- s. 257(8A)(8B) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 18(5)(d)
- s. 257(10A) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 18(5)(f)
- s. 257(13)-(15) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 18(5)(g)
- s. 258A258B inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 21(2)
- s. 261(5A)(5B) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 13(3)
- s. 261(10)(c) and word inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 19(2)(b)
- s. 267(3)(ja) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 21(3)(b)
- s. 267(5)(aa) inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 14(8)
- Sch. 2A inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 14(9)
- Sch. 3 para. 12A and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 28(2)
- Sch. 3 para. 2526 inserted by 2024 c. 9 s. 28(3)