



# Public Order Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 15

### PART 3

#### GENERAL

#### 34 Meaning of serious disruption

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, the cases in which individuals or an organisation may suffer serious disruption include, in particular, where the individuals or the organisation—
- (a) are by way of physical obstruction prevented, or hindered to more than a minor degree, from carrying out—
    - (i) their day-to-day activities (including in particular the making of a journey),
    - (ii) construction or maintenance works, or
    - (iii) activities related to such works,
  - (b) are prevented from making or receiving, or suffer a delay that is more than minor to the making or receiving of, a delivery of a time-sensitive product, or
  - (c) are prevented from accessing, or suffer a disruption that is more than minor to the accessing of, any essential goods or any essential service.
- (2) In this section—
- (a) “time-sensitive product” means a product whose value or use to its consumers may be significantly reduced by a delay in the supply of the product to them;
  - (b) a reference to accessing essential goods or essential services includes in particular a reference to accessing—
    - (i) the supply of money, food, water, energy or fuel,
    - (ii) a system of communication,
    - (iii) a place of worship,
    - (iv) a transport facility,
    - (v) an educational institution, or
    - (vi) a service relating to health.

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Public Order Act 2023, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)*

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**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 34 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 35\(5\)](#)  
**I2** S. 34 in force at 3.5.2023 by [S.I. 2023/502](#), [reg. 2\(f\)](#)

**35 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only, subject to subsection (2).
- (2) An amendment made by this Act has the same extent as the provision amended.
- (3) The following provisions come into force on the day on which this Act is passed—
  - (a) [sections 7](#) and [13](#), but only for the purposes of making regulations;
  - (b) [this section](#).
- (4) [Section 16](#) comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (5) Except as provided by [subsections \(3\)](#) and [\(4\)](#) this Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (6) Different days may be appointed for different purposes or areas.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make transitional, transitory or saving provision in connection with the coming into force of any provision of this Act.
- (8) The power to make regulations under subsection (7) includes power to make different provision for different purposes or areas.
- (9) This Act may be cited as the Public Order Act 2023.

**Commencement Information**

- I3** S. 35 in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 35\(3\)\(b\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Public Order Act 2023, Part 3.