



National Security Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 32

PART 4

FOREIGN ACTIVITIES AND FOREIGN INFLUENCE REGISTRATION SCHEME

Political influence activities of foreign powers

72 Requirement to register political influence activities of foreign powers

- (1) A person who holds office in or under, or is an employee or other member of staff of, a foreign power must not carry out political influence activities in the United Kingdom in that capacity if or to the extent that—
 - (a) the person makes a misrepresentation about their activities or the capacity in which they act (whether generally or to a particular person), and
 - (b) the activities are not registered with the Secretary of State by the foreign power.
- (2) Where the foreign power is a specified person, the prohibition in [subsection \(1\)](#) does not apply to the extent that the political influence activities are relevant activities for the purposes of [section 68](#).
- (3) A misrepresentation is a representation that a reasonable person would consider to be false or misleading in a material way.
- (4) A misrepresentation may be made by making a statement or by any other kind of conduct (including an omission), and may be express or implied.
- (5) A misrepresentation may in particular include—
 - (a) a misrepresentation as to the person's identity or purpose;
 - (b) presenting information in a way which amounts to a misrepresentation, even if some or all of the information is true.
- (6) A person who breaches a prohibition in [subsection \(1\)](#) commits an offence if the person knows, or having regard to other matters known to them ought reasonably to know, that [paragraph \(a\)](#) of that subsection applies.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (7) In proceedings for an offence under [subsection \(6\)](#) it is a defence to show that the person—
- (a) took all steps reasonably practicable to determine whether the activities were registered, and
 - (b) reasonably believed that the activities were registered.
- (8) A person is taken to have shown a matter mentioned in [subsection \(7\)](#) if—
- (a) sufficient evidence of the matter is adduced to raise an issue with respect to it, and
 - (b) the contrary is not proved beyond reasonable doubt.