
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1985 No. 1204

**The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and
Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**

**PART II
BETTING**

Special provisions with respect to young persons

Betting with young persons

51.—(1) If any person—

- (a) has any betting transaction with a person under the age of 18, or
- (b) employs a person under the age of 18 in the effecting of any betting transaction, or
- (c) receives or negotiates any bet through a person under the age of 18,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If any person under the age of 18 enters into any betting transaction he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) by reason of—

- (a) the employment of a person under the age of 18 in the effecting of betting transactions by post; or
- (b) the carriage by a person under the age of 18 of a communication relating to a betting transaction for the purposes of its conveyance by post.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under paragraph (1) it shall be a defence to prove that there was good reason to believe that the person under the age of 18 had attained that age.

[^{F1}(4A) In any case concerning—

- (a) a bet which is an entry in a qualifying competition (as defined in Article 3(1D)), or
- (b) a betting transaction relating to such a bet,

this Article shall have effect with the substitution in paragraphs (1) to (4) of “ 16 ” for “18”.]

(5) Paragraphs (5) and (6) of Article 50 shall apply to persons under the age of 18 for the purposes of this Article as they apply to such persons for the purposes of Article 50.

Changes to legislation:

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Section 51 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 June 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 :

- Instrument applied by [1997 c. 16 s.15\(3\)](#)

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

- Act applied by [1997 c. 16 s.15\(3\)](#)

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

- art. 172A and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 14 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(1\)](#)
- art. 186(3A) inserted by [2022 c. 14 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(2\)\(a\)](#)