



Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 23

PART II U.K.

SURVEILLANCE AND COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

Authorisation of surveillance and human intelligence sources

27 Lawful surveillance etc. U.K.

- (1) Conduct to which this Part applies shall be lawful for all purposes if—
 - (a) an authorisation under this Part confers an entitlement to engage in that conduct on the person whose conduct it is; and
 - (b) his conduct is in accordance with the authorisation.
- (2) A person shall not be subject to any civil liability in respect of any conduct of his which—
 - (a) is incidental to any conduct that is lawful by virtue of subsection (1); and
 - (b) is not itself conduct an authorisation or warrant for which is capable of being granted under a relevant enactment and might reasonably have been expected to have been sought in the case in question.
- (3) The conduct that may be authorised under this Part includes conduct outside the United Kingdom.
- (4) In this section “relevant enactment” means—
 - (a) an enactment contained in this Act [^{F1}or the Investigatory Powers Act 2016];
 - (b) section 5 of the ^{M1}Intelligence Services Act 1994 (warrants for the intelligence services); or
 - (c) an enactment contained in Part III of the ^{M2}Police Act 1997 (powers of the police and of [^{F2}officers of Revenue and Customs].)

Changes to legislation: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, Section 27 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 September 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](#)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 27(4)(a) inserted (27.6.2018) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 272(1), [Sch. 10 para. 4](#) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2018/652](#), reg. 12(g)(i)
- F2** Words in s. 27(4)(c) substituted (15.2.2008) by [Serious Crime Act 2007 \(c. 27\)](#), ss. 88, 94, [Sch. 12 para. 9](#); [S.I. 2008/219](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)
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Marginal Citations

- M1** [1994 c. 13](#).
- M2** [1997 c. 50](#).

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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):

- s. 30(6A)-(6D) inserted by [2016 anaw 6 s. 187\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 65(2)(ba) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 11\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 65(4AA)(4AB) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 11\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 65(5)(czha)(czhb) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 6\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 65(8)(bba) inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 6\(8\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 67(5)(a) words renumbered as s. 67(5)(a) by [2024 c. 9 s. 11\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 67(5)(b) and word inserted by [2024 c. 9 s. 11\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 16A and cross-heading inserted by [2016 anaw 6 s. 187\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 20H inserted by [2013 c. 32 Sch. 12 para. 74](#)