



Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 29

PART 8 U.K.

INVESTIGATIONS

CHAPTER 2 E+W+N.I.

ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Customer information orders

363 Customer information orders E+W+N.I.

- (1) A judge may, on an application made to him by an appropriate officer, make a customer information order if he is satisfied that each of the requirements for the making of the order is fulfilled.
- (2) The application for a customer information order must state that—
 - (a) a person specified in the application is subject to a confiscation investigation or a money laundering investigation, or
 - (b) property specified in the application is subject to a civil recovery investigation and a person specified in the application appears to hold the property.
- (3) The application must also state that—
 - (a) the order is sought for the purposes of the investigation;
 - (b) the order is sought against the financial institution or financial institutions specified in the application.
- (4) An application for a customer information order may specify—
 - (a) all financial institutions,
 - (b) a particular description, or particular descriptions, of financial institutions, or
 - (c) a particular financial institution or particular financial institutions.

Status: Point in time view as at 24/02/2003.

Changes to legislation: Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Cross Heading: Customer information orders is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 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. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) A customer information order is an order that a financial institution covered by the application for the order must, on being required to do so by notice in writing given by an appropriate officer, provide any such customer information as it has relating to the person specified in the application.
- (6) A financial institution which is required to provide information under a customer information order must provide the information to an appropriate officer in such manner, and at or by such time, as an appropriate officer requires.
- (7) If a financial institution on which a requirement is imposed by a notice given under a customer information order requires the production of evidence of authority to give the notice, it is not bound to comply with the requirement unless evidence of the authority has been produced to it.

Commencement Information

- II** S. 363 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333](#), [art. 14](#))

364 Meaning of customer information **E+W+N.I.**

- (1) “Customer information”, in relation to a person and a financial institution, is information whether the person holds, or has held, an account or accounts at the financial institution (whether solely or jointly with another) and (if so) information as to—
 - (a) the matters specified in subsection (2) if the person is an individual;
 - (b) the matters specified in subsection (3) if the person is a company or limited liability partnership or a similar body incorporated or otherwise established outside the United Kingdom.
- (2) The matters referred to in subsection (1)(a) are—
 - (a) the account number or numbers;
 - (b) the person’s full name;
 - (c) his date of birth;
 - (d) his most recent address and any previous addresses;
 - (e) the date or dates on which he began to hold the account or accounts and, if he has ceased to hold the account or any of the accounts, the date or dates on which he did so;
 - (f) such evidence of his identity as was obtained by the financial institution under or for the purposes of any legislation relating to money laundering;
 - (g) the full name, date of birth and most recent address, and any previous addresses, of any person who holds, or has held, an account at the financial institution jointly with him;
 - (h) the account number or numbers of any other account or accounts held at the financial institution to which he is a signatory and details of the person holding the other account or accounts.
- (3) The matters referred to in subsection (1)(b) are—
 - (a) the account number or numbers;
 - (b) the person’s full name;

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- (c) a description of any business which the person carries on;
 - (d) the country or territory in which it is incorporated or otherwise established and any number allocated to it under the Companies Act 1985 (c. 6) or the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/ 1032 (N.I. 6)) or corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside the United Kingdom;
 - (e) any number assigned to it for the purposes of value added tax in the United Kingdom;
 - (f) its registered office, and any previous registered offices, under the Companies Act 1985 or the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/1032 (N.I. 6)) or anything similar under corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside the United Kingdom;
 - (g) its registered office, and any previous registered offices, under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2000 (c. 12) or anything similar under corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside Great Britain;
 - (h) the date or dates on which it began to hold the account or accounts and, if it has ceased to hold the account or any of the accounts, the date or dates on which it did so;
 - (i) such evidence of its identity as was obtained by the financial institution under or for the purposes of any legislation relating to money laundering;
 - (j) the full name, date of birth and most recent address and any previous addresses of any person who is a signatory to the account or any of the accounts.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order provide for information of a description specified in the order—
- (a) to be customer information, or
 - (b) no longer to be customer information.
- (5) Money laundering is an act which—
- (a) constitutes an offence under section 327, 328 or 329 of this Act or section 18 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (c. 11), or
 - (b) would constitute an offence specified in paragraph (a) if done in the United Kingdom.

Commencement Information

I2 S. 364 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333, art. 14](#))

365 Requirements for making of customer information order **E+W+N.I.**

- (1) These are the requirements for the making of a customer information order.
- (2) In the case of a confiscation investigation, there must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person specified in the application for the order has benefited from his criminal conduct.
- (3) In the case of a civil recovery investigation, there must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that—
 - (a) the property specified in the application for the order is recoverable property or associated property;

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- (b) the person specified in the application holds all or some of the property.
- (4) In the case of a money laundering investigation, there must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person specified in the application for the order has committed a money laundering offence.
- (5) In the case of any investigation, there must be reasonable grounds for believing that customer information which may be provided in compliance with the order is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the investigation for the purposes of which the order is sought.
- (6) In the case of any investigation, there must be reasonable grounds for believing that it is in the public interest for the customer information to be provided, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the investigation if the information is obtained.

Commencement Information

I3 S. 365 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333, art. 14](#))

366 Offences **E+W+N.I.**

- (1) A financial institution commits an offence if without reasonable excuse it fails to comply with a requirement imposed on it under a customer information order.
- (2) A financial institution guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (3) A financial institution commits an offence if, in purported compliance with a customer information order, it—
 - (a) makes a statement which it knows to be false or misleading in a material particular, or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular.
- (4) A financial institution guilty of an offence under subsection (3) is liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

Commencement Information

I4 S. 366 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333, art. 14](#))

367 Statements **E+W+N.I.**

- (1) A statement made by a financial institution in response to a customer information order may not be used in evidence against it in criminal proceedings.
- (2) But subsection (1) does not apply—
 - (a) in the case of proceedings under Part 2 or 4,
 - (b) on a prosecution for an offence under section 366(1) or (3), or

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- (c) on a prosecution for some other offence where, in giving evidence, the financial institution makes a statement inconsistent with the statement mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) A statement may not be used by virtue of subsection (2)(c) against a financial institution unless—
- (a) evidence relating to it is adduced, or
 - (b) a question relating to it is asked,
- by or on behalf of the financial institution in the proceedings arising out of the prosecution.

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 367 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333, art. 14](#))

368 Disclosure of information **E+W+N.I.**

A customer information order has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

Commencement Information

- I6** S. 368 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120, art. 2, Sch.](#) (with [arts. 3, 4](#)) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333, art. 14](#))

369 Supplementary **E+W+N.I.**

- (1) An application for a customer information order may be made ex parte to a judge in chambers.
- (2) Rules of court may make provision as to the practice and procedure to be followed in connection with proceedings relating to customer information orders.
- (3) An application to discharge or vary a customer information order may be made to the court by—
 - (a) the person who applied for the order;
 - (b) any person affected by the order.
- (4) The court—
 - (a) may discharge the order;
 - (b) may vary the order.
- (5) If an accredited financial investigator, a constable or a customs officer applies for a customer information order, an application to discharge or vary the order need not be by the same accredited financial investigator, constable or customs officer.
- (6) References to a person who applied for a customer information order must be construed accordingly.
- (7) An accredited financial investigator, a constable or a customs officer may not make an application for a customer information order or an application to vary such an

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order unless he is a senior appropriate officer or he is authorised to do so by a senior appropriate officer.

(8) Subsections (2) to (6) do not apply to orders made in England and Wales for the purposes of a civil recovery investigation.

Commencement Information

I7 S. 369 in force at 24.2.2003 by [S.I. 2003/120](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#) (with arts. 3, 4) (as amended (20.2.2003) by [S.I. 2003/333](#), art. 14)

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