

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 23

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

Organisations relating to religion or belief

- 2 (1) This paragraph applies to an organisation the purpose of which is—
- (a) to practise a religion or belief,
 - (b) to advance a religion or belief,
 - (c) to teach the practice or principles of a religion or belief,
 - (d) to enable persons of a religion or belief to receive any benefit, or to engage in any activity, within the framework of that religion or belief, or
 - (e) to foster or maintain good relations between persons of different religions or beliefs.
- (2) This paragraph does not apply to an organisation whose sole or main purpose is commercial.
- (3) The organisation does not contravene Part 3, 4 or 7, so far as relating to religion or belief or sexual orientation, only by restricting—
- (a) membership of the organisation;
 - (b) participation in activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices;
 - (c) the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities undertaken by the organisation or on its behalf or under its auspices;
 - (d) the use or disposal of premises owned or controlled by the organisation.
- (4) A person does not contravene Part 3, 4 or 7, so far as relating to religion or belief or sexual orientation, only by doing anything mentioned in sub-paragraph (3) on behalf of or under the auspices of the organisation.
- (5) A minister does not contravene Part 3, 4 or 7, so far as relating to religion or belief or sexual orientation, only by restricting—
- (a) participation in activities carried on in the performance of the minister's functions in connection with or in respect of the organisation;
 - (b) the provision of goods, facilities or services in the course of activities carried on in the performance of the minister's functions in connection with or in respect of the organisation.
- (6) Sub-paragraphs (3) to (5) permit a restriction relating to religion or belief only if it is imposed—
- (a) because of the purpose of the organisation, or
 - (b) to avoid causing offence, on grounds of the religion or belief to which the organisation relates, to persons of that religion or belief.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (7) Sub-paragraphs (3) to (5) permit a restriction relating to sexual orientation only if it is imposed—
- (a) because it is necessary to comply with the doctrine of the organisation, or
 - (b) to avoid conflict with strongly held convictions within sub-paragraph (9).
- (8) In sub-paragraph (5), the reference to a minister is a reference to a minister of religion, or other person, who—
- (a) performs functions in connection with a religion or belief to which the organisation relates, and
 - (b) holds an office or appointment in, or is accredited, approved or recognised for the purposes of the organisation.
- (9) The strongly held convictions are—
- (a) in the case of a religion, the strongly held religious convictions of a significant number of the religion's followers;
 - (b) in the case of a belief, the strongly held convictions relating to the belief of a significant number of the belief's followers.
- (10) This paragraph does not permit anything which is prohibited by section 29, so far as relating to sexual orientation, if it is done—
- (a) on behalf of a public authority, and
 - (b) under the terms of a contract between the organisation and the public authority.
- (11) In the application of this paragraph in relation to sexual orientation, sub-paragraph (1)(e) must be ignored.
- (12) In the application of this paragraph in relation to sexual orientation, in sub-paragraph (3)(d), “disposal” does not include disposal of an interest in premises by way of sale if the interest being disposed of is—
- (a) the entirety of the organisation's interest in the premises, or
 - (b) the entirety of the interest in respect of which the organisation has power of disposal.
- (13) In this paragraph—
- (a) “disposal” is to be construed in accordance with section 38;
 - (b) “public authority” has the meaning given in section 150(1).