



Trade Act 2021

2021 CHAPTER 10

PART 4

TRADE INFORMATION

15 Offence relating to disclosure under section 14

- (1) If a person discloses information in contravention of section 14 which relates to a person whose identity—
 - (a) is specified in the disclosure, or
 - (b) can be deduced from it,the person who disclosed the information commits an offence.
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that the person reasonably believed—
 - (a) that the disclosure was lawful, or
 - (b) that the information had already lawfully been made available to the public.
- (3) A prosecution for an offence under this section—
 - (a) may be brought in England and Wales only with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - (b) may be brought in Northern Ireland only with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
 - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, to a fine or to both, or
 - (b) on summary conviction—
 - (i) in England and Wales, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, to a fine or to both;
 - (ii) in Scotland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both;

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (iii) in Northern Ireland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.
- (5) In relation to an offence committed before the commencement of paragraph 24(2) of Schedule 22 to the Sentencing Act 2020, the reference in subsection (4)(b)(i) to 12 months is to be read as a reference to 6 months.