



National Security Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

ESPIONAGE, SABOTAGE AND PERSONS ACTING FOR FOREIGN POWERS

Entering and inspecting places used for defence etc

7 Meaning of “prohibited place”

- (1) In this Part “prohibited place” means—
- (a) Crown land in the United Kingdom or the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia which is used—
 - (i) for UK defence purposes;
 - (ii) for extracting any metals, oil or minerals for use for UK defence purposes;
 - (iii) for the purposes of the defence of a foreign country or territory;
 - (b) a vehicle—
 - (i) situated in the United Kingdom or the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia which is used for UK defence purposes or for the purposes of the defence of a foreign country or territory;
 - (ii) not so situated which is used for UK defence purposes;
 - (c) any land or building in the United Kingdom or the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia which is used for the purposes described in [subsection \(2\)\(b\)](#) or [\(3\)\(b\)](#) (or both);
 - (d) any land or building in the United Kingdom or the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia which is—
 - (i) owned or controlled by the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service or GCHQ, and
 - (ii) used for the functions of the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service or GCHQ;
 - (e) any land or building or vehicle designated as a prohibited place in regulations made under [section 8](#).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Security Act 2023, Section 7. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) In [subsection \(1\)](#) use for UK defence purposes means use for the purposes of—
- (a) the activities of the armed forces of the Crown,
 - (b) the invention, development, production, operation, storage or disposal of weapons or other equipment or capabilities of those forces and research relating to it,
 - (c) United Kingdom defence policy and strategy and military planning and intelligence, or
 - (d) plans and measures for the maintenance of essential supplies and services that are or would be needed by the United Kingdom in time of war.
- (3) In [subsection \(1\)](#) use for the purposes of the defence of a foreign country or territory means use for the purposes of—
- (a) the activities of the armed forces of the foreign country or territory, or
 - (b) the invention, development, production, operation, storage or disposal of weapons or other equipment or capabilities of those forces and research relating to it.
- (4) In [this section](#)—
- “building” includes any part of a building;
- “Crown land” means any land or building in which there is a Crown interest or a Duchy interest;
- “Crown interest” means any of the following—
- (a) an interest belonging to His Majesty in right of the Crown or in right of His private estates;
 - (b) an interest belonging to a United Kingdom government department or held in trust for His Majesty for the purposes of a United Kingdom government department;
- “Duchy interest” means an interest belonging to His Majesty in right of the Duchy of Lancaster or belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall;
- “foreign country or territory” means a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the British Overseas Territories;
- “GCHQ” has the meaning given by section 3(3) of the Intelligence Services Act 1994.
- (5) In [subsection \(4\)](#) the reference to His Majesty’s private estates is to be construed in accordance with section 1 of the Crown Private Estates Act 1862.

Commencement Information

- 11** S. 7 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 100\(1\)](#)
- 12** S. 7 in force at 20.12.2023 by [S.I. 2023/1272](#), [reg. 2\(a\)](#)

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