



Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 23

PART IV

SCRUTINY ETC. OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS AND OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Commissioners

61 Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland.

- (1) The Prime Minister, after consultation with the First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland, shall appoint a Commissioner to be known as the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland.
- (2) The Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland shall keep under review the exercise and performance in Northern Ireland, by the persons on whom they are conferred or imposed, of any powers or duties under Part II which are conferred or imposed by virtue of an order under section 30 made by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland.
- (3) The Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland shall give the Tribunal all such assistance (including his opinion as to any issue falling to be determined by the Tribunal) as the Tribunal may require—
 - (a) in connection with the investigation of any matter by the Tribunal; or
 - (b) otherwise for the purposes of the Tribunal's consideration or determination of any matter.
- (4) It shall be the duty of—
 - (a) every person by whom, or on whose application, there has been given or granted any authorisation the function of giving or granting which is subject to review by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland,

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- (b) every person who has engaged in conduct with the authority of such an authorisation,
 - (c) every person who holds or has held any office, rank or position with the same public authority as a person falling within paragraph (a), and
 - (d) every person who holds or has held any office, rank or position with any public authority for whose benefit (within the meaning of Part II) activities which are or may be subject to any such review have been or may be carried out,
- to disclose or provide to that Commissioner all such documents and information as he may require for the purpose of enabling him to carry out his functions.
- (5) As soon as practicable after the end of each calendar year, the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland shall make a report to the First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland with respect to the carrying out of that Commissioner's functions.
- (6) The First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland shall lay before the Northern Ireland Assembly a copy of every annual report made by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland under subsection (5), together with a statement as to whether any matter has been excluded from that copy in pursuance of subsection (7).
- (7) If it appears to the First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland, after consultation with the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland, that the publication of any matter in an annual report would be contrary to the public interest or prejudicial to—
- (a) the prevention or detection of serious crime, or
 - (b) the continued discharge of the functions of any public authority whose activities include activities that are subject to review by that Commissioner,
- they may exclude that matter from the copy of the report as laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- (8) A person shall not be appointed under this section as the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland unless he holds or has held office in Northern Ireland—
- (a) in any capacity in which he is or was the holder of a high judicial office (within the meaning of [F1Part 3 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005]); or
 - (b) as a county court judge.
- (9) The Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland shall hold office in accordance with the terms of his appointment; and there shall be paid to him out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland such allowances as the Department of Finance and Personnel may determine.
- (10) The First Minister and deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland shall, after consultation with the Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland, provide him with such staff as they consider necessary for the carrying out of his functions.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 61(8)(a) substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\), ss. 145, 148, Sch. 17 para. 30\(3\); S.I. 2009/1604, art. 2\(e\)](#)

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 61: power to repeal conferred (1.9.2017) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 240(5)(a), 272(1)** (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2017/859](#), [reg. 2\(i\)](#) (with [regs. 6-11](#))

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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\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- 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](#)