



Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

1999 CHAPTER 33

PART I

IMMIGRATION: GENERAL

Information

20 [F¹Power to supply information etc to Secretary of State]

(1) This section applies to information held by—

- [F²(a) a public authority, or
- (b) any specified person, for purposes specified in relation to that person.]

[F³(1A) This section also applies to a document or article which—

- (a) comes into the possession of [F⁴a public authority or someone acting on behalf of a public authority] , or
- (b) is discovered by [F⁵a public authority or someone acting on behalf of a public authority] .]

[F⁶(1B) This section does not apply to—

- (a) information which is held by the Crown Prosecution Service, or
- (b) a document or article which comes into the possession of, or is discovered by, the Crown Prosecution Service, or someone acting on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service,

if section 40 of the UK Borders Act 2007 applies to the information, document or article.]

(2) The information [F⁷, document or article] may be supplied to the Secretary of State for use for immigration purposes.

[F⁸(2A) The Secretary of State may—

- (a) retain for immigration purposes a document or article supplied to him under subsection (2), and

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- (b) dispose of a document or article supplied to him under subsection (2) in such manner as he thinks appropriate (and the reference to use in subsection (2) includes a reference to disposal).]

[^{F9}(2B) Subsection (2A)(a) does not affect any other power of the Secretary of State to retain a document or article.]

- (3) “Immigration purposes” means any of the following—
 - (a) the administration of immigration control under the Immigration Acts;
 - (b) the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences under those Acts;
 - (c) the imposition of penalties or charges under Part II;
 - (d) the provision of support for asylum-seekers and their dependants under Part VI;
 - [^{F10}(da) anything else that is done in connection with the exercise of a function under any of the Immigration Acts;]
 - (e) such other purposes as may be specified.

[^{F11}(3A) Public authority” means a person with functions of a public nature but does not include—

- (a) Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs,
- (b) either House of Parliament or a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in Parliament,
- (c) the Scottish Parliament or a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in the Scottish Parliament,
- (d) the National Assembly for Wales or a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in that Assembly, or
- (e) the Northern Ireland Assembly or a person exercising functions in connection with proceedings in that Assembly.]

[^{F12}(4)]

- (5) “Specified” means specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (6) This section does not limit the circumstances in which information [^{F13}, documents or articles] may be supplied apart from this section.

[^{F14}(7) Nothing in this section authorises information, a document or an article to be supplied if to do so would contravene a restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 20 heading substituted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 55(2)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, [reg. 3\(h\)](#)
- F2** S. 20(1)(a)(b) substituted for s. 20(1)(a)-(f) (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 55(3)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, [reg. 3\(h\)](#)
- F3** S. 20(1A) inserted (10.2.2003) by [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(c. 41\)](#), **ss. 132(2)**, 162(1) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/1, [art. 2](#), Sch.
- F4** Words in s. 20(1A)(a) substituted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 55(4)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, [reg. 3\(h\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 20(1A)(b) substituted (12.7.2016) by [Immigration Act 2016 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 55(4)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, [reg. 3\(h\)](#)

Changes to legislation: *Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Section 20 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 April 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) View outstanding changes*

- F6** S. 20(1B) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(5)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)
- F7** Words in s. 20(2) inserted (10.2.2003) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 132(3)**, 162(1) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/1, art. 2, Sch.
- F8** S. 20(2A) inserted (10.2.2003) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 132(4)**, 162(1) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/1, art. 2, Sch.
- F9** S. 20(2B) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(6)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)
- F10** S. 20(3)(da) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(7)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)
- F11** S. 20(3A) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(8)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)
- F12** S. 20(4) omitted (12.7.2016) by virtue of Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(9)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)
- F13** Words in s. 20(6) inserted (10.2.2003) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 132(5)**, 162(1) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/1, art. 2, Sch.
- F14** S. 20(7) inserted (12.7.2016) by Immigration Act 2016 (c. 19), **ss. 55(10)**, 94(1); S.I. 2016/603, reg. 3(h)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 20 modified (10.2.2003) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 131**, 162(1) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/1, art. 2, Sch.
- C2** S. 20 restricted (7.4.2005) by Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 (c. 11), s. 53(1), **Sch. 2 para. 17** (with s. 22); S.I. 2005/1126, art. 2(1)

Changes to legislation:

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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. 10(12) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 10\(6\)](#)
- s. 40(1)-(1C) substituted for s. 40(1) by [2022 c. 36 s. 76\(2\)](#)
- s. 40(4A)(4B) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 76\(5\)](#)
- s. 72(10) repealed by [2004 c. 19 Sch. 4](#)
- s. 94(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 94(2D) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 94(3)(3A) substituted for s. 94(3) by [2002 c. 41 s. 44\(4\)](#) (This amendment is repealed (prosp.) by [2016 c. 19, Sch. 11 para. 41](#))
- s. 94(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 3\(5\)](#)
- s. 95A inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 9](#)
- s. 96(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 97(3A)(b)(iv) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 13\(2\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 97(8)(9) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 11\(4\)](#)
- s. 98A inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 13](#)
- s. 98A(5) inserted by [2022 c. 36 s. 13\(4\)](#)
- s. 103(4)(a) words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 103(5)(b) word substituted by [S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 183\(ii\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) heading words substituted by [2004 c. 19 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 103A(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2008/2833 Sch. 3 para. 184](#)
- s. 125(2)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 22\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 146(2)(za) inserted by [2016 c. 19 s. 44\(9\)](#)
- s. 166(5)(ca) substituted for word in s. 166(5)(c) by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(2\)](#)
- s. 166(5A)(5B) inserted by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(3\)](#)
- s. 166(6)(aa) substituted for word in s. 166(6)(a) by [2016 c. 19 Sch. 11 para. 24\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 21 modified by [2002 c. 41 s. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 para. 2(5) modified by [2002 c. 41 s. 23\(2\)\(b\)](#)