



Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 36

PART 2

REGULATION OF RADIO SPECTRUM

CHAPTER 5

MISCELLANEOUS

Misuse of wireless telegraphy

47 Misleading messages

- (1) A person commits an offence if, by means of wireless telegraphy, he sends or attempts to send a message to which this section applies.
- (2) This section applies to a message which, to the person's knowledge—
 - (a) is false or misleading; and
 - (b) is likely to prejudice the efficiency of a safety of life service or to endanger the safety of a person or of a ship, aircraft or vehicle.
- (3) This section applies in particular to a message which, to the person's knowledge, falsely suggests that a ship or aircraft—
 - (a) is in distress or in need of assistance; or
 - (b) is not in distress or not in need of assistance.
- (4) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [^{F1}the general limit in a magistrates' court] or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, Section 47. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) In the application of subsection (4) to Scotland or Northern Ireland the reference to 12 months is to be read as a reference to six months.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 47(4)(a) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/149\)](#), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**

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