



Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

1999 CHAPTER 33

PART V

IMMIGRATION ADVISERS AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Enforcement

[^{F1}92A Investigation of offence: power of entry

- (1) On an application made by the Commissioner a justice of the peace may issue a warrant authorising the Commissioner to enter and search premises.
- (2) A justice of the peace may issue a warrant in respect of premises only if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) an offence under section 91 has been committed,
 - (b) there is material on the premises which is likely to be of substantial value (whether by itself or together with other material) to the investigation of the offence, and
 - (c) any of the conditions specified in subsection (3) is satisfied.
- (3) Those conditions are—
 - (a) that it is not practicable to communicate with a person entitled to grant entry to the premises,
 - (b) that it is not practicable to communicate with a person entitled to grant access to the evidence,
 - (c) that entry to the premises will be prevented unless a warrant is produced, and
 - (d) that the purpose of a search may be frustrated or seriously prejudiced unless the Commissioner can secure immediate entry on arrival at the premises.
- (4) The Commissioner may seize and retain anything for which a search is authorised under this section.
- (5) A person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse he obstructs the Commissioner in the exercise of a power by virtue of this section.

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- (6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (5) shall be liable on summary conviction to—
- (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months,
 - (b) a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or
 - (c) both.
- (7) In this section—
- (a) a reference to the Commissioner includes a reference to a member of his staff authorised in writing by him,
 - (b) a reference to premises includes a reference to premises used wholly or partly as a dwelling, and
 - (c) a reference to material—
 - (i) includes material subject to legal privilege within the meaning of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60),
 - (ii) does not include excluded material or special procedure material within the meaning of that Act, and
 - (iii) includes material whether or not it would be admissible in evidence at a trial.
- (8) In the application of this section to Scotland—
- (a) a reference to a justice of the peace shall be taken as a reference to the sheriff,
 - (b) for sub-paragraph (i) of subsection (7)(c) there is substituted—

“(i) includes material comprising items subject to legal privilege (as defined by section 412 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (c. 29)),” and
 - (c) sub-paragraph (ii) of subsection (7)(c) shall be ignored.
- (9) In the application of this section to Northern Ireland the reference to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 shall be taken as a reference to the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12)).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 92A inserted (1.10.2004) by [Asylum and Immigration \(Treatment of Claimants, etc.\) Act 2004](#) (c. 19), **ss. 38(1), 48(3)**; S.I. 2004/2523, art. 2, Sch.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act excluded by [2024 c. 8 s. 2\(5\)\(a\)5](#)

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