



Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 41

PART X

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Provisions relating to offences

153 Offences committed by unincorporated associations.

- (1) Proceedings for an offence alleged to have been committed under this Act by an unincorporated association shall be brought against the association in its own name (and not in that of any of its members) and, for the purposes of any such proceedings, any rules of court relating to the service of documents shall have effect as if the association were a corporation.
- (2) A fine imposed on an unincorporated association on its conviction of an offence under this Act shall be paid out of the funds of the association.
- (3) Section 33 of the ^{M1}Criminal Justice Act 1925 and Schedule 3 to the ^{M2}Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (procedure on charge of offence against a corporation) shall have effect in a case in which an unincorporated association is charged in England or Wales with an offence under this Act in like manner as they have effect in the case of a corporation so charged.
- (4) In relation to any proceedings on indictment in Scotland for an offence alleged to have been committed under this Act by an unincorporated association, section 70 of the ^{M3}Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (proceedings on indictment against bodies corporate) shall have effect as if the association were a body corporate.
- (5) Section 18 of the ^{M4}Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 1945 and Schedule 4 to the ^{M5}Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (procedure on charge of offence against a corporation) shall have effect in a case in which an unincorporated

Changes to legislation: Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, Section 153 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 May 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

association is charged in Northern Ireland with an offence under this Act in like manner as they have effect in the case of a corporation so charged.

^{F1}(5A)

(6) Where a partnership is guilty of an offence under this Act and the offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any partner, he as well as the partnership shall be guilty of that offence and be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(7) Where any other unincorporated association is guilty of an offence under this Act and the offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of—

(a) any officer of the association, or

(b) any member of the committee or other similar governing body of the association,

he, as well as the association, shall be guilty of that offence and be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 153(5A) repealed (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1310\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 1 Pt. 1** (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1389](#), regs. 1, 2(2))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 153 applied (4.3.2016) by [Recall of MPs Act 2015 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 24(3), **Sch. 4 para. 21(1)(c)**; [S.I. 2016/290](#), reg. 2

Commencement Information

I1 S. 153 wholly in force at 16.2.2001; s. 153 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 163(2); s. 153 in force at 16.2.2001 by [S.I. 2001/222](#), art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt.I** (subject to transitional provisions in [Sch. 1 Pt. II](#))

Marginal Citations

M1 1925 c. 86.

M2 1980 c. 43.

M3 1995 c. 46.

M4 1945 c. 15 (N.I.).

M5 [S.I. 1981/1675 \(N.I. 26\)](#).

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. 2(2A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 18\(1\)](#)
- s. 4A-4E and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 16](#)
- s. 8(3)(d) inserted by [2011 c. 13 Sch. 10 para. 12](#)
- s. 13ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 17\(1\)](#)
- s. 54(1)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 9\(1\)](#)
- s. 54(1)(aa) substituted by [2009 c. 12 s. 10\(1\)](#)
- s. 54(2ZA)-(2ZC) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 56(1A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 10\(5\)](#)
- s. 56(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 9\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 56(3B) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 9\(4\)](#)
- s. 71H(3ZA) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 6 para. 19](#)
- s. 71L(9A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 11\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1) Sch. 1 para. 2 renumbered as Sch. 1 para. 2(1) by [2022 c. 37 s. 19\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(2) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 19\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1) words inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 19\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1) words omitted by [2022 c. 37 s. 19\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 2(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 18\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 4 and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 6(1)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 3 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 8(1A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 2](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 10(5)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 3 para. 2\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 6(1)(aa) substituted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 1\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 10(5)(aa) words inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 7A para. 8(9A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 11\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 7A para. 9(10)(ba) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 11\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 4(3) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 6 para. 29\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 6(1)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 3 para. 4\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 7(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 5](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 6(1)(aa) substituted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 4\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 4(3) words inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 6 para. 29\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 15 para. 4(3)(4) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 6 para. 30\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 15 para. 6(1)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 3 para. 7\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 15 para. 7(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 8](#)
- Sch. 15 para. 6(1)(aa) substituted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 4 para. 7\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 15 para. 4(3) words inserted by [2009 c. 12 Sch. 6 para. 30\(3\)](#)