



Investigatory Powers Act 2016

2016 CHAPTER 25

PART 2

LAWFUL INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

CHAPTER 1

INTERCEPTION AND EXAMINATION WITH A WARRANT

Approval of warrants by Judicial Commissioners

24 Approval of warrants issued in urgent cases

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a warrant under this Chapter is issued without the approval of a Judicial Commissioner, and
 - (b) the person who decided to issue the warrant considered that there was an urgent need to issue it.
- (2) The person who decided to issue the warrant must inform a Judicial Commissioner that it has been issued.
- (3) The Judicial Commissioner must, before the end of the relevant period—
 - (a) decide whether to approve the decision to issue the warrant, and
 - (b) notify the person of the Judicial Commissioner's decision.

“The relevant period” means the period ending with the [^{F1}third][^{F1}ninth] working day after the day on which the warrant was issued.
- (4) If a Judicial Commissioner refuses to approve the decision to issue a warrant, the warrant—
 - (a) ceases to have effect (unless already cancelled), and
 - (b) may not be renewed,

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and section 23(5) does not apply in relation to the refusal to approve the decision.

- (5) Section 25 contains further provision about what happens if a Judicial Commissioner refuses to approve the decision to issue a warrant.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 24(3) substituted (temp.) (27.3.2020) by virtue of [The Investigatory Powers \(Temporary Judicial Commissioners and Modification of Time Limits\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/360\)](#), regs. 1(2), [4\(a\)](#) (with reg. 5)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 24 in force at 27.6.2018 by [S.I. 2018/652](#), [reg. 8\(b\)](#)

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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. 58(4)(e) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 13 para. 9](#)