



National Security Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

ESPIONAGE, SABOTAGE AND PERSONS ACTING FOR FOREIGN POWERS

Foreign interference

13 Foreign interference: general

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person engages in prohibited conduct,
 - (b) the foreign power condition is met in relation to the prohibited conduct, and
 - (c) the person intends the prohibited conduct, or a course of conduct of which it forms part, to have an interference effect.
- (2) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person engages in prohibited conduct,
 - (b) the foreign power condition is met in relation to the prohibited conduct, and
 - (c) the person is reckless as to whether the prohibited conduct, or a course of conduct of which it forms part, will have an interference effect.
- (3) A person (“P”) commits an offence if—
 - (a) P engages in a course of conduct with one or more other persons,
 - (b) the foreign power condition is met in relation to conduct of P which forms part of the course of conduct,
 - (c) P intends the course of conduct to have an interference effect,
 - (d) as part of the course of conduct, a person other than P engages in prohibited conduct, and
 - (e) P intends or believes that, as part of the course of conduct, a person other than P will engage in prohibited conduct.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Security Act 2023, Section 13. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) For the purposes of subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c) a course of conduct includes a course of conduct engaged in by the person alone, or by the person and one or more other persons.
- (5) Subsections (1) and (2) apply whether the person’s conduct takes place in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (6) Subsection (3) applies whether P’s conduct or the prohibited conduct takes place in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (7) A person who commits an offence under [this section](#) is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years or a fine (or both).
- (8) In [this section](#)—
 - “interference effect” has the meaning given by section 14;
 - “prohibited conduct” has the meaning given by section 15.

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 13 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 100\(1\)](#)
- I2** [S. 13](#) in force at 20.12.2023 by [S.I. 2023/1272](#), [reg. 2\(a\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Security Act 2023, Section 13.