



# National Security Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 32

### PART 1

#### ESPIONAGE, SABOTAGE AND PERSONS ACTING FOR FOREIGN POWERS

##### *Foreign interference*

#### **15 Foreign interference: meaning of “prohibited conduct”**

- (1) Conduct is prohibited conduct for the purposes of section 13 if—
  - (a) it constitutes an offence, or
  - (b) if it takes place in a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, it would constitute an offence if it took place in any part of the United Kingdom.
- (2) Conduct is prohibited conduct for the purposes of section 13 if it involves coercion of any kind, including coercion by—
  - (a) using or threatening to use violence against a person;
  - (b) damaging or destroying, or threatening to damage or destroy, a person’s property;
  - (c) damaging or threatening to damage a person’s reputation;
  - (d) causing or threatening to cause financial loss to a person;
  - (e) causing spiritual injury to, or placing undue spiritual pressure on, a person;(whether or not that person is the person to whom the interference effect relates).
- (3) Conduct is prohibited conduct for the purposes of section 13 if it involves making a misrepresentation.
- (4) A “misrepresentation” is a representation—
  - (a) that a reasonable person would consider to be false or misleading in a way material to the interference effect, and
  - (b) that the person making the representation knows or intends to be false or misleading in a way material to the interference effect.

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Security Act 2023, Section 15. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (5) A misrepresentation may be made by making a statement or by any other kind of conduct, and may be express or implied.
- (6) A misrepresentation may in particular include—
- (a) a misrepresentation as to a person’s identity or purpose;
  - (b) presenting information in a way which amounts to a misrepresentation, even if some or all of the information is true.
- (7) In this section “interference effect” has the meaning given by section 14.

---

**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 15 not in force at Royal Assent, see **s. 100(1)**
- I2** S. 15 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 15.