

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)

## Interpretation Act 1978

1978 CHAPTER 30

*An Act to consolidate the Interpretation Act 1889 and certain other enactments relating to the construction and operation of Acts of Parliament and other instruments, with amendments to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission*

[20th July 1978]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

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**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

[20th July 1978]

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/1 Words of enactment

***General provisions as to enactment and operation*****1 Words of enactment**

Every section of an Act takes effect as a substantive enactment without introductory words.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 8.

**Initial Commencement*****Specified date***

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/2 Amendment or repeal in same Session

**2 Amendment or repeal in same Session**

Any Act may be amended or repealed in the Session of Parliament in which it is passed.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 10.

**Initial Commencement*****Specified date***

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/3 Judicial notice

**3 Judicial notice**

Every Act is a public Act to be judicially noticed as such, unless the contrary is expressly provided by the Act.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 9.

**Initial Commencement*****Specified date***

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978  
**Date made**  
 20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/4 Time of commencement

**4 Time of commencement**

An Act or provision of an Act comes into force--

- (a) where provision is made for it to come into force on a particular day, at the beginning of that day;
- (b) where no provision is made for its coming into force, at the beginning of the day on which the Act receives the Royal Assent.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Acts of Parliament (commencement) Act 1793 and the Interpretation Act 1889, s 36(2).

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978  
**Date made**  
 20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/5 Definitions

***Interpretation and construction*****5 Definitions**

In any Act, unless the contrary intention appears, words and expressions listed in Schedule 1 to this Act are to be construed according to that Schedule.

**NOTES****Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978  
**Date made**  
 20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/6 Gender and number

**6 Gender and number**

In any Act, unless the contrary intention appears,--

- (a) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine;
- (b) words importing the feminine gender include the masculine;
- (c) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 1(1).

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978  
**Date made**  
 20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/7 References to service by post

## 7 References to service by post

Where an Act authorises or requires any document to be served by post (whether the expression "serve" or the expression "give" or "send" or any other expression is used) then, unless the contrary intention appears, the service is deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting a letter containing the document and, unless the contrary is proved, to have been effected at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

### NOTES

#### Derivation

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 26.

#### Initial Commencement

##### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

#### See Further

See further: the Merger (Prenotification) Regulations 1990, SI 1990/501, regs 4(4), 7(4), 10, 12(5).

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Interpretation Act 1978

#### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/8 References to distance

## 8 References to distance

In the measurement of any distance for the purposes of an Act, that distance shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane.

### NOTES

#### Derivation

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 34.

#### Initial Commencement

##### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

<b>Document information</b>
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Interpretation Act 1978

#### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/9 References to time of day

## 9 References to time of day

Subject to section 3 of the Summer Time Act 1972 (construction of references to points of time during the period of summer time), whenever an expression of time occurs in an Act, the time referred to shall, unless it is otherwise specifically stated, be held to be Greenwich mean time.

### NOTES

#### Derivation

This section derived from the Statutes (Definition of Time) Act 1880, s 1.

#### Initial Commencement

##### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

<b>Document information</b>
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Interpretation Act 1978

#### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/10 References to the Sovereign

## 10 References to the Sovereign

In any Act a reference to the Sovereign reigning at the time of the passing of the Act is to be construed, unless the contrary intention appears, as a reference to the Sovereign for the time being.

### NOTES

**Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 30.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**  
20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/11 Construction of subordinate legislation

**11 Construction of subordinate legislation**

Where an Act confers power to make subordinate legislation, expressions used in that legislation have, unless the contrary intention appears, the meaning which they bear in the Act.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 31.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**  
20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/12 Continuity of powers and duties

***Statutory powers and duties*****12 Continuity of powers and duties**

(1) Where an Act confers a power or imposes a duty it is implied, unless the contrary intention appears, that the power may be exercised, or the duty is to be performed, from time to time as occasion requires.

(2) Where an Act confers a power or imposes a duty on the holder of an office as such, it is implied, unless the contrary intention appears, that the power may be exercised, or the duty is to be performed, by the holder for the time being of the office.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 32(1), (2).

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**  
20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/13 Anticipatory exercise of powers

**13 Anticipatory exercise of powers**

Where an Act which (or any provision of which) does not come into force immediately on its passing confers power to make subordinate legislation, or to make appointments, give notices, prescribe forms or do any other thing for the purposes of the Act, then, unless the contrary intention appears, the power may be exercised, and any instrument made thereunder may be made so as to come into force, at any time after the passing of the Act so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose--

- (a) of bringing the Act or any provision of the Act into force; or
- (b) of giving full effect to the Act or any such provision at or after the time when it comes into force.

**NOTES****Derivation**

The section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 37.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/14 Implied power to amend

**14 Implied power to amend**

Where an Act confers power to make--

- (a) rules, regulations or byelaws; or
- (b) Orders in Council, orders or other subordinate legislation to be made by statutory instrument,

it implies, unless the contrary intention appears, a power, exercisable in the same manner and subject to the same conditions or limitations, to revoke, amend or re-enact any instrument made under the power.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 32(3).

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/[14A Power to include sunset and review provisions in subordinate legislation]

**[14A Power to include sunset and review provisions in subordinate legislation]**

[(1) This section applies where an Act confers a power or a duty on a person to make subordinate legislation except to the extent that--

- (a) the power or duty is exercisable by the Scottish Ministers, or
- (b) the power or duty is exercisable by any other person within devolved competence (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998).

(2) The subordinate legislation may include--

- (a) provision requiring the person to review the effectiveness of the legislation within a specified period or at the end of a specified period;
- (b) provision for the legislation to cease to have effect at the end of a specified day or a specified period;
- (c) if the power or duty is being exercised to amend other subordinate legislation, provision of the kind mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) in relation to that other legislation.

(3) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (2)(a) includes provision requiring the person to consider whether the objectives which it was the purpose of the legislation to achieve remain appropriate and, if so, whether they could be achieved in another way.

(4) Subordinate legislation including provision of a kind mentioned in subsection (2) may make such provision generally or only in relation to specified provisions of the legislation or specified cases or circumstances.

(5) Subordinate legislation including provision of a kind mentioned in subsection (2) may make transitional, consequential, incidental or supplementary provision or savings in connection with such provision.

(6) In this section, "specified" means specified in the subordinate legislation.]

**NOTES****Amendment**

Inserted by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, s 59(1), (2).

Date in force: 25 April 2013: see the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, s 103(1)(e).

**Subordinate Legislation**

Motor Vehicles (Driver Testing and Vehicle Load) Regulations 2013, SI 2013/1753.  
 Bus Service Operators Grant (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, SI 2013/2100.  
 Salmon and Migratory Trout (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (England) Order 2015, SI 2015/441.  
 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/541.  
 Sea Fish Licensing (England) Order 2015, SI 2015/647.  
 Fishing Boats Designation (England) Order 2015, SI 2015/648.

Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/787.  
 Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2015, SI 2015/1556.  
 Competition Act 1998 (Redress Scheme) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/1587.  
 Accounting Standards (Prescribed Bodies) (United States of America and Japan) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/1675.  
 Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Filing Requirements) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/1695.

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Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/15 Repeal of repeal

**Repealing enactments**

**15 Repeal of repeal**

Where an Act repeals a repealing enactment, the repeal does not revive any enactment previously repealed unless words are inserted reviving it.

**NOTES**

**Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 11(1).

**Initial Commencement**

*Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

<b>Document information</b>
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Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/16 General savings

**16 General savings**

(1) Without prejudice to section 15, where an Act repeals an enactment, the repeal does not, unless the contrary intention appears,—

- (a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect;
- (b) affect the previous operation of the enactment repealed or anything duly done or suffered under that enactment;
- (c) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under that enactment;
- (d) affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against that enactment;
- (e) affect any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment;

and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if the repealing Act had not been passed.

(2) This section applies to the expiry of a temporary enactment as if it were repealed by an Act.

**NOTES**

**Derivation**

Sub-s (1) derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 38(2).

**Initial Commencement**

*Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**See Further**

See further, in relation to the application of sub-s (1) above, in so far as it relates to the annulment of any law under the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009, Sch 1, s 217(3); the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009, SI 2009/1751, Sch 1, s 217(3).

<b>Document information</b>
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Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/17 Repeal and re-enactment

**17 Repeal and re-enactment**

(1) Where an Act repeals a previous enactment and substitutes provisions for the enactment repealed, the repealed enactment remains in force until the substituted provisions come into force.

- (2) Where an Act repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, a previous enactment then, unless the contrary intention appears,--
- (a) any reference in any other enactment to the enactment so repealed shall be construed as a reference to the provision re-enacted;
  - (b) in so far as any subordinate legislation made or other thing done under the enactment so repealed, or having effect as if so made or done, could have been made or done under the provision re-enacted, it shall have effect as if made or done under that provision.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, ss 11(2), 38(1).

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/18 Duplicated offences

*Miscellaneous***18 Duplicated offences**

Where an act or omission constitutes an offence under two or more Acts, or both under an Act and at common law, the offender shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be liable to be prosecuted and punished under either or any of those Acts or at common law, but shall not be liable to be punished more than once for the same offence.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 33.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/19 Citation of other Acts

**19 Citation of other Acts**

(1) Where an Act cites another Act by year, statute, session or chapter, or a section or other portion of another Act by number or letter, the reference shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be read as referring--

- (a) in the case of Acts included in any revised edition of the statutes printed by authority, to that edition;
- (b) in the case of Acts not so included but included in the edition prepared under the direction of the Record Commission, to that edition;
- (c) in any other case, to the Acts printed by the Queen's Printer, or under the superintendence or authority of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

(2) An Act may continue to be cited by the short title authorised by any enactment notwithstanding the repeal of that enactment.

**NOTES****Derivation**

Sub-s (1) derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 35(2); sub-s (2) derived from the Short Titles Act 1896, s 3.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/20 References to other enactments

**20 References to other enactments**



- (1) Where an Act describes or cites a portion of an enactment by referring to words, sections or other parts from or to which (or from and to which) the portion extends, the portion described or cited includes the words, sections or other parts referred to unless the contrary intention appears.
- (2) Where an Act refers to an enactment, the reference, unless the contrary intention appears, is a reference to that enactment as amended, and includes a reference thereto as extended or applied, by or under any other enactment, including any other provision of that Act.

**NOTES****Derivation**

Sub-s (1) derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, ss 31, 37, 39.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/[20A References to [EU instruments]]

**[20A References to [EU instruments]]**

[Where an Act passed after the commencement of this section refers to a [EU instrument] that has been amended, extended or applied by another such instrument, the reference, unless the contrary intention appears, is a reference to that instrument as so amended, extended or applied.]

**NOTES****Amendment**

Inserted by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 25(1).

Specified date: 8 January 2007: see the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 33.

Section heading: words "EU instruments" in square brackets substituted by the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008, s 3(3), Schedule, Pt 2.

Date in force: 1 December 2009: see SI 2009/3143, art 2.

Words "EU instrument" in square brackets substituted by the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008, s 3(3), Schedule, Pt 2.

Date in force: 1 December 2009: see SI 2009/3143, art 2.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/21 Interpretation etc

**Supplementary****21 Interpretation etc**

(1) In this Act "Act" includes a local and personal or private Act; and "subordinate legislation" means Orders in Council, orders, rules, regulations, schemes, warrants, byelaws and other instruments made or to be made under any Act.

(2) This Act binds the Crown.

**NOTES****Derivation**

This section derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, ss 30, 31, 37, 39.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/22 Application to Acts and Measures

**22 Application to Acts and Measures**

(1) This Act applies to itself, to any Act passed after the commencement of this Act [(subject, in the case of section 20A, to the provision made in that section)] and, to the extent specified in Part I of Schedule 2, to Acts passed before the commencement of this Act.

(2) In any of the foregoing provisions of this Act a reference to an Act is a reference to an Act to which that provision applies; but this does not affect the generality of references to enactments or of the references in section 19(1) to other Acts.

(3) This Act applies to Measures of the General Synod of the Church of England (and, so far as it relates to Acts passed before the commencement of this Act, to Measures of the Church Assembly passed after 28th May 1925) as it applies to Acts.

#### NOTES

##### Derivation

Sub-s (3) derived from the Interpretation Measure 1925, s 1.

##### Initial Commencement

###### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

##### Amendment

Sub-s (1): words "(subject, in the case of section 20A, to the provision made in that section)" in square brackets inserted by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 25(2).

Specified date: 8 January 2007: see the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 33.

#### Document information

Interpretation Act 1978

##### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/23 Application to other instruments

#### 23 Application to other instruments

(1) The provisions of this Act, except sections 1 to 3 and 4(b), apply, so far as applicable and unless the contrary intention appears, to subordinate legislation made after the commencement of this Act and, to the extent specified in Part II of Schedule 2, to subordinate legislation made before the commencement of this Act, as they apply to Acts.

(2) In the application of this Act to Acts passed or subordinate legislation made after the commencement of this Act, all references to an enactment include an enactment comprised in subordinate legislation whenever made, and references to the passing or repeal of an enactment are to be construed accordingly.

(3) Sections 9 and 19(1) also apply to deeds and other instruments and documents as they apply to Acts and subordinate legislation; and in the application of section 17(2)(a) to Acts passed or subordinate legislation made after the commencement of this Act, the reference to any other enactment includes any deed or other instrument or document.

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to Orders in Council made under section 5 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, section 1(3) of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972 or Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974.

#### NOTES

##### Initial Commencement

###### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

##### See Further

See further: the Companies Act 1989, s 144(6).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of so much of sub-s (3) above as applies s 17(2)(a) hereof to deeds, instruments and documents other than enactments, in respect of any repeal and re-enactment effected by regulations under the Companies Act 2006, s 1160: the Companies Act 2006, s 1160(4).

#### Document information

Interpretation Act 1978

##### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/[23A Acts of the Scottish Parliament etc]

#### [23A Acts of the Scottish Parliament etc]

[(1) This Act applies in relation to an Act of the Scottish Parliament and an instrument made under such an Act only to the extent provided in this section.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) below, sections 15 to 18 apply to--

- (a) an Act of the Scottish Parliament as they apply to an Act,
- (b) an instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament as they apply to subordinate legislation.

(3) In the application of those sections to an Act and to subordinate legislation--

- (a) references to an enactment include an enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament, and
- (b) the reference in section 17(2)(b) to subordinate legislation includes an instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

(4) In the application of section 20 to an Act and to subordinate legislation, references to an enactment include an enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament.]

#### NOTES

**Amendment**

Inserted by the Scotland Act 1998, s 125, Sch 8, para 16(2).

Date in force: 1 July 1999: see SI 1998/3178, art 2(1).

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/[23B Measures and Acts of the National Assembly for Wales etc]

**[23B Measures and Acts of the National Assembly for Wales etc]**

[(1) Subject as follows, the provisions of this Act--

- (a) apply to a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales as they apply to an Act, and
- (b) apply to an instrument made under a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales as they apply to other subordinate legislation.

(2) Sections 1 to 3 do not apply to a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales.

(3) In this Act references to an enactment include an enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales.

(4) In the application of this Act to a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales, references to the passing of an Act or an enactment are to be read as references to the enactment of the Measure or Act.

(5) Section 4(b) does not apply to a Measure of the National Assembly for Wales; but where such a Measure makes no provision for the coming into force of a provision contained in it, that provision comes into force at the beginning of the day on which the Measure is approved by Her Majesty in Council.]

**NOTES****Amendment**

Inserted by the Government of Wales Act 2006, s 160(1), Sch 10, para 11.

Date in force: this amendment came into force on 25 May 2007 being the date on which the initial period ended (following the appointment of the First Minister): see the Government of Wales Act 2006, ss 46, 161(4), (5).

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/24 Application to Northern Ireland

**24 Application to Northern Ireland**

(1) This Act extends to Northern Ireland so far as it applies to Acts or subordinate legislation which so extend.

(2) In the application of this Act to Acts passed or subordinate legislation made after the commencement of this Act, all references to an enactment include an enactment comprised in Northern Ireland legislation whenever passed or made; and in relation to such legislation references to the passing or repeal of an enactment include the making or revocation of an Order in Council.

(3) In the application of section 14 to Acts passed after the commencement of this Act which extend to Northern Ireland, "statutory instrument" includes statutory rule for the purposes of the [Statutory Rules Northern Ireland Order 1979].

[(3A) Section 20A applies to Northern Ireland legislation as it applies to Acts.]

(4) The following definitions contained in Schedule 1, namely those of--

...

The Communities and related expressions;

The Corporation Tax Acts;

[EEA agreement and EEA state;]

The Income Tax Acts;

The Tax Acts,

apply unless the contrary intention appears, to Northern Ireland legislation as they apply to Acts.

(5) In this section "Northern Ireland legislation" means--

- (a) Acts of the Parliament of Ireland;
- (b) Acts of the Parliament of Northern Ireland;
- (c) Orders in Council under section 1(3) of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972;

[(d) Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly established under section 1 of the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973;

- (e) orders in Council under Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974;

- (f) Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly; and
- (g) Orders in Council under section 85 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.]

**NOTES****Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Amendment**

Sub-s (3): amended by the Statutory Rules (Northern Ireland) Order 1979, SI 1979/1573, art 11(1), Sch 4, para 25.  
 Sub-s (3A): inserted by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 25(3).

Specified date: 8 January 2007: see the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 33.

Sub-s (4): definition "British subject and Commonwealth citizen;" (omitted) repealed by the British Nationality Act 1981, s 52(8), Sch 9.  
 Sub-s (4): definition "EEA agreement and EEA state;" inserted by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 26(2).

Specified date: 8 January 2007: see the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 33.

Sub-s (5): paras (d)-(g) substituted, for paras (d), (e) as originally enacted, by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, s 99, Sch 13, para 3.

Date in force: 2 December 1999: see SI 1999/3209, art 2, Schedule.

**Modification**

The Northern Ireland Act 1998 makes new provision for the government of Northern Ireland for the purpose of implementing the Belfast Agreement (the agreement reached at multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883). As a consequence of that Act, any reference in this section to the Parliament of Northern Ireland or the Assembly established under the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973, s 1, certain office-holders and Ministers, and any legislative act and certain financial dealings thereof, shall, for the period specified, be construed in accordance with Sch 12, paras 1-11 to the 1998 Act.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/25 Repeals and savings

**25 Repeals and savings**

- (1) The enactments described in Schedule 3 are repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.
- (2) Without prejudice to section 17(2)(a), a reference to the Interpretation Act 1889, to any provision of that Act or to any other enactment repealed by this Act, whether occurring in another Act, in subordinate legislation, in Northern Ireland legislation or in any deed or other instrument or document, shall be construed as referring to this Act, or to the corresponding provision of this Act, as it applies to Acts passed at the time of the reference.
- (3) The provisions of this Act relating to Acts passed after any particular time do not affect the construction of Acts passed before that time, though continued or amended by Acts passed thereafter.

**NOTES****Derivation**

Sub-s (3) derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 40.

**Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Modification**

The Northern Ireland Act 1998 makes new provision for the government of Northern Ireland for the purpose of implementing the Belfast Agreement (the agreement reached at multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883). As a consequence of that Act, any reference in this section to the Parliament of Northern Ireland or the Assembly established under the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973, s 1, certain office-holders and Ministers, and any legislative act and certain financial dealings thereof, shall, for the period specified, be construed in accordance with Sch 12, paras 1-11 to the 1998 Act.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/26 Commencement

**26 Commencement**

This Act shall come into force on 1st January 1979.

**NOTES****Initial Commencement**

**Specified date**

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see above.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/27 Short title

**27 Short title**

This Act may be cited as the Interpretation Act 1978.

**NOTES****Initial Commencement****Specified date**

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Document information**

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/SCHEDULE 1 Words and expressions defined

**SCHEDULE 1****WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS DEFINED****Section 5**

*Note:* The years or dates which follow certain entries in this Schedule are relevant for the purposes of paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 (application to existing enactments).

**Definitions**

["Act" means an Act of Parliament.]

"Associated state" means a territory maintaining a status of association with the United Kingdom in accordance with the West Indies Act 1967. [16th February 1967]

"Bank of England" means, as the context requires, the Governor and Company of the Bank of England or the bank of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

"Bank of Ireland" means, as the context requires, the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland or the bank of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland.

"British Islands" means the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. [1889]

["British overseas territory" has the same meaning as in the British Nationality Act 1981:]

"British possession" means any part of Her Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom; and where parts of such dominions are under both a central and a local legislature, all parts under the central legislature are deemed, for the purposes of this definition, to be one British possession. [1889]

...

"Building regulations", in relation to England and Wales, [has the meaning given by section 122 of the Building Act 1984].

"Central funds", in an enactment providing in relation to England and Wales for the payment of costs out of central funds, means money provided by Parliament.

["Charity Commission" means the Charity Commission for England and Wales (see section 13 of the Charities Act 2011).]

"Church Commissioners" means the Commissioners constituted by the Church Commissioners Measure 1947.

["Civil partnership" means a civil partnership which exists under or by virtue of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (and any reference to a civil partner is to be read accordingly).]

"Colonial legislature", and "legislature" in relation to a British possession, mean the authority, other than the Parliament of the United Kingdom or Her Majesty in Council, competent to make laws for the possession.

"Colony" means any part of Her Majesty's dominions outside the British Islands except--

- (a) countries having fully responsible status within the Commonwealth;
- (b) territories for whose external relations a country other than the United Kingdom is responsible;
- (c) associated states;

and where parts of such dominions are under both a central and a local legislature, all parts under the central legislature are deemed for the purposes of this definition to be one colony. [1889]

"Commencement", in relation to an Act or enactment, means the time when the Act or enactment comes into force.

"Committed for trial" means--

- (a) . . .
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, committed in custody or on bail by a magistrates' court pursuant to [Article 37 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981], or by a court, judge, resident magistrate. . . or other authority having power to do so, with a view to trial on indictment. [1st January 1979]

["The EU" or "the EU Treaties"] and other expressions defined by section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the European Communities Act 1972 have the meanings prescribed by that Act.

"Comptroller and Auditor General" means the Comptroller-General of the receipt and issue of Her Majesty's Exchequer and Auditor-General of Public Accounts . . .

"Consular officer" has the meaning assigned by Article 1 of the Vienna Convention set out in Schedule 1 to the Consular Relations Act 1968.

["The Corporation Tax Acts" means the enactments relating to the taxation of the income and chargeable gains of companies and of company distributions (including provisions relating to income tax).]

"County court" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, [the county court established under section A1 of] [the County Courts Act 1984]. [1846]
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, a court held for a division under the County Courts [(Northern Ireland) Order 1980]. [1889]

"Court of Appeal" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, Her Majesty's Court of Appeal in England;
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, Her Majesty's Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland.

["Court of Judicature" means the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.]

"Court of summary jurisdiction", "summary conviction" and "Summary Jurisdiction Acts", in relation to Northern Ireland, have the same meanings as in Measures of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Acts of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

"Crown Court" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the Crown Court constituted by section 4 of the Courts Act 1971;
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, the Crown Court constituted by section 4 of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978.

"Crown Estate Commissioners" means the Commissioners referred to in section 1 of the Crown Estate Act 1961.

["EEA agreement" means the agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992, together with the Protocol adjusting that Agreement signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993, as modified or supplemented from time to time. [The date of the coming into force of this paragraph.]

"EEA state", in relation to any time, means--

- (a) a state which at that time is a member State; or
- (b) any other state which at that time is a party to the EEA agreement. [The date of the coming into force of this paragraph.]

["Enactment" does not include an enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament.]

"England" means, subject to any alteration of boundaries under Part IV of the Local Government Act 1972, the area consisting of the counties established by section 1 of that Act, Greater London and the Isles of Scilly. [1st April 1974]

"Financial year" means, in relation to matters relating to the Consolidated Fund, the National Loans Fund, or moneys provided by Parliament, or to the Exchequer or to central taxes or finance, the twelve months ending with 31st March. [1889]

"Governor-General" includes any person who for the time being has the powers of the Governor-General, and "Governor", in relation to any British possession, includes the officer for the time being administering the government of that possession. [1889]

["Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs" has the meaning given by section 4 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005.]

"High Court" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England;
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland.

["The Immigration Acts" has the meaning given by [section 61 of the UK Borders Act 2007].]

"The Income Tax Acts" means all enactments relating to income tax, including any provisions of the Corporation Tax Acts which relate to income tax.

"Land" includes buildings and other structures, land covered with water, and any estate, interest, easement, servitude or right in or over land. [1st January 1979]

"Lands Clauses Acts" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 and the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts Amendment Act 1860, and any Acts for the time being in force amending those Acts; [1889]
- (b) in relation to Scotland, the Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 and the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts Amendment Act 1860, and any Acts for the time being in force amending those Acts; [1889]
- (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the enactments defined as such by section 46 (1) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954. [1889]

"Local land charges register", in relation to England and Wales, means [the register] kept pursuant to section 3 of the Local Land Charges Act 1975, . . .

["Local policing body" has the meaning given by section 101(1) of the Police Act 1996.]

"London borough" means a borough described in Schedule 1 to the London Government Act 1963, "inner London borough" means one of the boroughs so described and numbered from 1 to 12 and "outer London borough" means one of the boroughs so described and numbered from 13 to 32, subject (in each case) to any alterations made under Part IV of the Local Government Act 1972[, Part 2 of the Local Government Act 1992 or Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007].

"Lord Chancellor" means the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

"Magistrates' court" has the meaning assigned to it--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, by [section 148 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980];
- (b) in relation to Northern Ireland, by [Article 2(2) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981].

"Month" means calendar month. [1850]

"National Debt Commissioners" means the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

"Northern Ireland legislation" has the meaning assigned by section 24(5) of this Act. [1st January 1979]

"Oath" and "affidavit" include affirmation and declaration, and "swear" includes affirm and declare.

["Officer of a provider of probation services" in relation to England and Wales, has the meaning given by section 9(1) of the Offender Management Act 2007.]

["Officer of Revenue and Customs" has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005.]

"Ordnance Map" means a map made under powers conferred by the Ordnance Survey Act 1841 or the Boundary Survey (Ireland) Act 1854.

"Parliamentary Election" means the election of a Member to serve in Parliament for a constituency. [1889]

["PAYE income" has the meaning given by section 683 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

"PAYE regulations" means regulations under section 684 of that Act.]

"Person" includes a body of persons corporate or unincorporate. [1889]

["Police and crime commissioner" means a police and crime commissioner established under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.]

"Police area". . . and other expressions relating to the police have the meaning or effect described--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, by [section 101(1) of the Police Act 1996];
- (b) . . . .

[. . .]

["Police Service of Northern Ireland" and "Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve" have the same meaning as in the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.]

"The Privy Council" means the Lords and others of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

["Provider of probation services", in relation to England and Wales, has the meaning given by section 3(6) of the Offender Management Act 2007.]

["Registered" in relation to nurses and midwives, means registered in the register maintained under article 5 of the [Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001] by virtue of qualifications in nursing or midwifery, as the case may be.]

["Registered medical practitioner" means a fully registered person within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983 who holds a licence to practise under that Act.]

["Registered provider of social housing" and "private registered provider of social housing" have the meanings given by section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (and "non-profit" and "profit-making" in connection with a registered provider are to be read in accordance with section 115 of that Act).]

"Rules of Court" in relation to any court means rules made by the authority having power to make rules or orders regulating the practice and procedure of that court, and in Scotland includes Acts of Adjournment and Acts of Sederunt; and the power of the authority to make rules of court (as above defined) includes power to make such rules for the purpose of any Act which directs or authorises anything to be done by rules of court. [1889]

"Secretary of State" means one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

["Senior Courts" means the Senior Courts of England and Wales.]

["Sent for trial" means, in relation to England and Wales, sent by a magistrates' court to the Crown Court for trial pursuant to section 51 or 51A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.]

["Sewerage undertaker", in relation to England and Wales, shall be construed in accordance with [section 6 of the Water Industry Act 1991].]

["Sheriff" is to be construed in accordance with section 134(2) and (3) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.]

["The standard scale", with reference to a fine or penalty for an offence triable only summarily,--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, has the meaning given by section 37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982;
- (b) in relation to Scotland, has the meaning given by [section 225(1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995];
- (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, has the meaning given by Article 5 of the Fines and Penalties (Northern Ireland) Order 1984.]

"Statutory declaration" means a declaration made by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

["Statutory maximum", with reference to a fine or penalty on summary conviction for an offence,--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, means the prescribed sum within the meaning of section 32 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980;
- (b) in relation to Scotland, means the prescribed sum within the meaning of [section 225(8) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995]; and
- (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, means the prescribed sum within the meaning of Article 4 of the Fines and Penalties (Northern Ireland) Order 1984.]

["Supreme Court" means the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.]

["The Tax Acts" means the Income Tax Acts and the Corporation Tax Acts.]

"The Treasury" means the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

["Trust of land" and "trustees of land", in relation to England and Wales, have the same meanings as in the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996.]

"United Kingdom" means Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [12th April 1927]

["Wales" means the combined area of the counties which were created by section 20 of the Local Government Act 1972, as originally enacted, but subject to any alteration made under section 73 of that Act (consequential alteration of boundary following alteration of watercourse).]



["Water undertaker", in relation to England and Wales, shall be construed in accordance with [section 6 of the Water Industry Act 1991].]

"Writing" includes typing, printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, and expressions referring to writing are construed accordingly.

...

***Construction of certain expressions relating to offences***

In relation to England and Wales--

- (a) "indictable offence" means an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable on indictment, whether it is exclusively so triable or triable either way;
- (b) "summary offence" means an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable only summarily;
- (c) "offence triable either way" means an offence[, other than an offence triable on indictment only by virtue of Part V of the Criminal Justice Act 1988] which, if committed by an adult, is triable either on indictment or summarily;

and the terms "indictable", "summary" and "triable either way", in their application to offences, are to be construed accordingly.

In the above definitions references to the way or ways in which an offence is triable are to be construed without regard to the effect, if any, of [section 22 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980] on the mode of trial in a particular case.

***[Construction of certain references to relationships***

In relation to England and Wales--

- (a) references (however expressed) to any relationship between two persons;
- (b) references to a person whose father and mother were or were not married to each other at the time of his birth; and
- (c) references cognate with references falling within paragraph (b) above,

shall be construed in accordance with section 1 of the Family Law Reform Act 1987. [The date of the coming into force of that section].

***[Construction of certain expressions relating to the police: Scotland***

In relation to Scotland--

- (a) references to a police force include references to the Police Service of Scotland;
- (b) references to a chief officer of police include references to the chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland;
- (c) "police authority" means the Scottish Police Authority;
- (d) the "police area" of the Police Service of Scotland is Scotland and references to a police force or police authority for any area include references to the Police Service of Scotland or, as the case may be, the Scottish Police Authority;
- (e) references to a constable or chief constable of, or appointed for, any area are to be construed as references to a constable or, as the case may be, the chief constable of, or appointed for, the Police Service of Scotland.]

**NOTES**

**Derivation**

This Schedule derived from the British Nationality Act 1948, s 1(1), (2); the Costs in Criminal Cases Act 1973, s 13(1); the Courts Act 1971, s 1(1); the Criminal Law Act 1977, s 64; the European Communities Act 1972, s 1(2); the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, s 526(1)(a), (b), (2); the Interpretation Act 1889, ss 2(1), 3, 6, 12(1), (3), (5), (12), (14)-(20), 13(1)-(3), (11), 14, 15(4), 17(1), 18(1)-(3), (6), (7), 19-23, 25, 27, 36(1); the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954, s 46(1); the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978, s 41; the Local Government Act 1972, s 269; the Local Land Charges Act 1975, s 4; the London Government Act 1963, s 1(1), (6); the Magistrates Courts Act 1952, s 124; the Magistrates Courts (Northern Ireland) Act 1964, s 1; the Medical Act 1978, s 31(1), Sch 6, para 48(b); the Northern Ireland Act 1962, s 27; the Police Act 1964, s 62; the Public Health Act 1936, s 61(1); the Revenue Act 1884, s 14; the Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act 1927, s 2(2); the Water Act 1973, s 2(3); the West Indies Act 1967, s 1(3).

**Initial Commencement**

***Specified date***

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

**Amendment**

Definition "Act" inserted by the Scotland Act 1998, s 125, Sch 8, para 16(3).

Date in force: 1 July 1999: see SI 1998/3178, art 2(1).

Definition "British overseas territory" inserted by the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, s 1(3).

Date in force: this amendment came into force on 26 February 2002 (date of Royal Assent of the British Overseas Territories Act 2002) in the absence of any specific commencement provision.

Definition "British subject" and "Commonwealth citizen" omitted repealed by the British Nationality Act 1981, s 52(8), Sch 9.

In definition "Building regulations" words "has the meaning given by section 122 of the Building Act 1984" in square brackets substituted by the Building Act 1984, s 133(1), Sch 6, para 19.

Definition "Charity Commission" substituted by the Charities Act 2011, s 354(1), Sch 7, Pt 2, para 35.

Date in force: 14 March 2012: see the Charities Act 2011, s 355; for transitional provisions and savings see s 354(2), Sch 8, Pt 1 thereto.

Definition "Civil partnership" inserted by the Civil Partnership Act 2004, s 261(1), Sch 27, para 59.

Date in force: 5 December 2005: see SI 2005/3175, art 2(2).

In definition "Committed for trial" para (a) repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, ss 41, 332, Sch 3, Pt 2, para 49(a), Sch 37, Pt 4.

Date in force (for certain purposes): 18 June 2012: see SI 2012/1320, art 4(1)(a), (b), (c)(iii)-(v), (d); for savings see art 5 thereof.  
 Date in force (for certain purposes): 5 November 2012: see SI 2012/2574, art 2(1)(a)-(d), (2), (3), Schedule; for savings and effect see arts 3, 4 thereof.  
 Date in force (for remaining purposes): 28 May 2013: see SI 2013/1103, art 2(1)(a)-(d), (2)-(4); for savings see arts 3, 4 thereof.

In definition "Committed for trial" in para (b) words "Article 37 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981" in square brackets substituted by the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, SI 1981/1675, art 170(2), Sch 6, Pt I, para 56.

In definition "Committed for trial" in para (b) words omitted repealed by the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, s 86, Sch 13.

Date in force: 1 April 2005: see the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (Commencement No 8) Order 2005, SR 2005/109, art 2, Schedule.

In definition ""The EU" or "the EU Treaties"" words ""The EU" or "the EU Treaties"" in square brackets substituted by the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008, s 3(3), Schedule, Pt 2.

Date in force: 1 December 2009: see SI 2009/3143, art 2.

In definition "Comptroller and Auditor General" words omitted repealed by the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, s 26(2), Sch 5, Pt 2, para 12.

Date in force: 1 April 2012: see SI 2011/2576, art 5.

Definition "The Corporation Tax Acts" substituted by the Finance Act 1987, s 71, Sch 15, para 12.

In definition "County court" in para (a) words "the county court established under section A1 of" in square brackets substituted by the Crime and Courts Act 2013, s 17(5), Sch 9, Pt 3, para 94.

Date in force: 22 April 2014: see SI 2014/954, art 2(a), (c); for transitional provision see art 3.

In definition "County Court" in para (a) words "the County Courts Act 1984" in square brackets substituted by the County Courts Act 1983, s 148(1), Sch 2, para 68.

In definition "County Court" in para (b) words "(Northern Ireland) Order 1980" in square brackets substituted by the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980, SI 1980/397, art 68(2), Sch 1, Pt II.

Definition "Court of Judicature" inserted by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, s 59(5), Sch 11, Pt 4, para 24(b).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1604, art 2(d).

Definitions "EEA agreement" and "EEA state" inserted by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 26(1).

Specified date: 8 January 2007: see the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, s 33.

Definition "Enactment" inserted by the Scotland Act 1998, s 125, Sch 8, para 16(3).

Date in force: 1 July 1999: see SI 1998/3178, art 2(1).

Definition "Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs" inserted by the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, s 4(3).

Date in force: 7 April 2005 at 1745 hours: see SI 2005/1126, art 2(1).

Definition "The Immigration Acts" inserted by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, s 64(4).

Date in force: this amendment came into force on 30 March 2006 (date of the Royal Assent of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006) in the absence of any specific commencement provision.

In definition "The Immigration Acts" words "section 61 of the UK Borders Act 2007" in square brackets substituted by the UK Borders Act 2007, s 61(4).

Date in force: this amendment came into force on 30 October 2007 (date of Royal Assent of the UK Borders Act 2007) in the absence of any specific commencement provision.

In definition "local land charges register" words "the register" in square brackets substituted by the Infrastructure Act 2015, s 34(1), (2)(c), Sch 5, Pt 3, para 34(a).

Date in force: this amendment came into force on 12 April 2015, but with effect in a local authority area only on and after the date specified in a notice given in relation to that area under Sch 5, Pt 4, para 40: see the Infrastructure Act 2015, s 57(5)(e), (6); for further effect see s 34(1), (2)(d), Sch 5, Pt 4.

In definition "local land charges register" words omitted repealed by the Infrastructure Act 2015, s 34(1), (2)(c), Sch 5, Pt 3, para 34(b).

Date in force: this repeal came into force on 12 April 2015, but with effect in a local authority area only on and after the date specified in a notice given in relation to that area under Sch 5, Pt 4, para 40: see the Infrastructure Act 2015, s 57(5)(e), (6); for further effect see s 34(1), (2)(d), Sch 5, Pt 4.

Definition "Local policing body" inserted by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, s 97(1), (2); for transitional provisions see s 98, Sch 15, Pts 3, 4 thereto.

Date in force: 16 January 2012: see SI 2011/3019, art 3, Sch 1, para (aaa).

In definition "London borough" words ", Part 2 of the Local Government Act 1992 or Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007" in square brackets substituted by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, s 22, Sch 1, Pt 2, para 14.

Date in force: 1 November 2007: see SI 2007/3136, art 2(b).

In definition "Magistrates' court" in para (a) words "section 148 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980" in square brackets substituted by the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s 154, Sch 7, para 169.

In definition "Magistrates' court" in para (b) words "Article 2(2) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981" in square brackets substituted by the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, SI 1981/1675, art 170(2), Sch 6, Pt I, para 56.

Definition "Officer of a provider of probation services" inserted by the Offender Management Act 2007, s 39, Sch 3, Pt 1, para 2.

Date in force: 1 April 2008: see SI 2008/504, art 3(k), (l).

Definition "Officer of Revenue and Customs" inserted by the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, s 2(7).

Date in force: 7 April 2005 at 1745 hours: see SI 2005/1126, art 2(1).

Definitions "PAYE income" and "PAYE regulations" inserted by the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, s 722, Sch 6, Pt 2, para 148.

Date in force: this amendment has effect, for the purposes of income tax for the year 2003-04 and subsequent years of assessment, and for the purposes of corporation tax for accounting periods ending after 5 April 2003: see the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, s 723(1).

Definition "Police and crime commissioner" inserted by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, s 97(1), (3); for transitional provisions see s 98, Sch 15, Pts 3, 4 thereto.

Date in force: 22 November 2012: see SI 2012/2892, art 2(a), (h).

In definition "Police area" words omitted repealed by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, s 97(1), (4); for transitional provisions see s 98, Sch 15, Pts 3, 4 thereto.

Date in force: 16 January 2012: see SI 2011/3019, art 3, Sch 1, para (aaa).

In definitions "police area", "police authority" in para (a) words "section 101(1) of the Police Act 1996" in square brackets substituted by the Police Act 1996, s 103, Sch 7, para 32.  
In definition "Police area" para (b) repealed by SI 2013/602, art 26, Sch 2, Pt 1, para 15(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 1 April 2013: see SI 2013/602, art 1(2); for transitional provisions and savings see art 27, Sch 3 thereto.

Definition "Police authority" (omitted) inserted by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, s 97(1), (5); for transitional provisions see s 98, Sch 15, Pts 3, 4 thereto.

Date in force: 16 January 2012: see SI 2011/3019, art 3, Sch 1, para (aaa).

Definition "Police authority" (omitted) repealed by SI 2013/602, art 26, Sch 2, Pt 1, para 15(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 1 April 2013: see SI 2013/602, art 1(2); for transitional provisions and savings see art 27, Sch 3 thereto.

Definitions "Police Service of Northern Ireland" and "Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve" inserted by the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, s 78(1), Sch 6, para 5.

Date in force: 4 November 2001: see the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Commencement No 3 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2001, SR 2001/396, art 2, Schedule.

Definition "Registered" inserted by the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979, s 23(4), Sch 7, para 30.

Definition "Provider of probation services" inserted by the Offender Management Act 2007, s 39, Sch 3, Pt 1, para 2.

Date in force: 1 April 2008: see SI 2008/504, art 3(k), (l).

Definition "Registered" substituted by SI 2002/253, art 54(3), Sch 5, para 7.

Date in force: 1 August 2004: see the London Gazette, 21 July 2004; for transitional provisions see SI 2004/253, Sch 2.

In definition "Registered" words "Nurses and Midwives Order 2001" in italics repealed and subsequent words in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1771, art 3, Schedule, Pt 1, para 7.

Date in force: 1 August 2004 (being the date on which the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001, SI 2002/253, Sch 5, para 7 came into force): see the London Gazette, 21 July 2004.

Definition "Registered medical practitioner" substituted by SI 2002/3135, art 16(1), Sch 1, Pt 1, para 10.

Date in force: 16 November 2009: see SI 2002/3135, art 1(2), (3) and the London Gazettes, 21 August 2009.

Definition "Registered provider of social housing" and "private registered provider of social housing" substituted, for definition "Registered provider of social housing" (as inserted by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, s 277, Sch 9, para 5) by SI 2010/844, art 6, Sch 2, para 1.

Date in force: 1 April 2010: see SI 2010/844, art 1(2).

Definition "Senior Courts" inserted by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, s 59(5), Sch 11, Pt 4, para 24(b).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1604, art 2(d).

Definition "Sent for trial" inserted by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, s 41, Sch 3, Pt 2, para 49(b).

Date in force: 9 May 2005: see SI 2005/1267, art 2(1), (2)(a), Schedule, Pt 1, para 1(1)(h).

Definition "sewerage undertaker" inserted by the Water Act 1989, s 190, Sch 25, para 55.

In definition "sewerage undertaker" words "section 6 of the Water Industry Act 1991" in square brackets substituted by the Water Consolidation (Consequential Provisions) Act 1991, s 2, Sch 1, para 3.

Definition "Sheriff" substituted by SI 2015/700, art 10, Schedule, para 10.

Date in force (for certain purposes): 11 November 2014: see SI 2015/700, art 1(11)(h).

Date in force (for remaining purposes): 1 April 2015: see SI 2015/700, art 1(11)(h) and SSI 2015/77, art 2(2), Schedule.

Definition "The standard scale" inserted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, s 170(1), Sch 15, para 58.

In definition "The standard scale" in para (b) words "section 225(1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995" in square brackets substituted by the Criminal Procedure (Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1995, s 5, Sch 4, para 17.

Definition "Statutory maximum" inserted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, s 170(1), Sch 15, para 58.

In definition "Statutory maximum" in para (b) words "section 225(8) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995" in square brackets substituted by the Criminal Procedure (Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1995, s 5, Sch 4, para 17.

Definition "Supreme Court" substituted by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, s 59(5), Sch 11, Pt 4, para 24(a).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1604, art 2(d).

Definition "The Tax Acts" substituted by the Finance Act 1987, s 71, Sch 15, para 12.

Definition "Trust of land" and "trustees of land" inserted by the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996, s 25(4), Sch 3, para 16; for savings in relation to entailed interests created before the commencement of that Act, and savings consequential upon the abolition of the doctrine of conversion, see s 25(4), (5) thereof.

Definition "Wales" substituted by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, s 1(3), Sch 2, para 9.

Definition "Water undertaker" substituted, for definitions "water authority" and "water authority area" as originally enacted, by the Water Act 1989, s 190, Sch 25, para 55.

In definition "Water undertaker" words "section 6 of the Water Industry Act 1991" in square brackets substituted by the Water Consolidation (Consequential Provisions) Act 1991, s 2, Sch 1, para 32.

Entry "Construction of certain expressions relating to children" omitted repealed by the Children Act 1989, s 108(6), (7), Sch 14, paras 1, 27, Sch 15.

In entry "Construction of certain expressions relating to offences" in para (c) words from ", other than" to "Criminal Justice Act 1988" in square brackets inserted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, s 170(1), Sch 15, para 59.

In entry "Construction of certain expressions relating to offences" words "section 22 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980" in square brackets substituted by the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s 154, Sch 7.

Entry "Construction of certain references to relationships" inserted by the Family Law Reform Act 1987, s 33(1), Sch 2, para 73, Sch 3, para 1.

Entry "Construction of certain expressions relating to the police: Scotland" inserted by SI 2013/602, art 26, Sch 2, Pt 1, para 15(1), (3).

Date in force: 1 April 2013: see SI 2013/602, art 1(2); for transitional provisions and savings see art 27, Sch 3 thereto.

#### Modification

The Northern Ireland Act 1998 makes new provision for the government of Northern Ireland for the purpose of implementing the Belfast Agreement (the agreement reached at multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883). As a consequence of that Act, any reference in this Schedule to the Parliament of Northern Ireland or the Assembly established under the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973, s 1, certain office-holders and Ministers, and any legislative act and certain financial dealings thereof, shall, for the period specified, be construed in accordance with Sch 12, paras 1-11 to the 1998 Act.

Document information
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Interpretation Act 1978  
**Date made**  
 20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/SCHEDULE 2 Application of Act to Existing Enactments/Part I Acts

**SCHEDULE 2**

**APPLICATION OF ACT TO EXISTING ENACTMENTS**

**Sections 22, 23**

**Part I**

**Acts**

**1**

The following provisions of this Act apply to Acts whenever passed:--

Section 6(a) and (c) so far as applicable to enactments relating to offences punishable on indictment or on summary conviction

Section 9

Section 10

Section 11 so far as it relates to subordinate legislation made after the year 1889

[Section 14A]

Section 18

Section 19(2).

**2**

The following apply to Acts passed after the year 1850:--

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 6(a) and (c) so far as not applicable to such Acts by virtue of paragraph 1

Section 15

Section 17(1).

**3**

The following apply to Acts passed after the year 1889:--

Section 4

Section 7

Section 8

Section 12

Section 13

Section 14 so far as it relates to rules, regulations or byelaws

Section 16(1)

Section 17(2)(a)

Section 19(1)

Section 20(1).

**4**

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph--

(a) paragraphs of Schedule 1 at the end of which a year or date . . . is specified [or described] apply, so far as applicable, to Acts passed on or after the date, or after the year, so specified [or described]; and

(b) paragraphs of that Schedule at the end of which no year or date is specified [or described] apply, so far as applicable, to Acts passed at any time.

(2) The definition of "British Islands", in its application to Acts passed after the establishment of the Irish Free State but before the commencement of this Act, includes the Republic of Ireland.

- (3) The definition of "colony", in its application to an Act passed at any time before the commencement of this Act, includes--
- (a) any colony within the meaning of section 18(3) of the Interpretation Act 1889 which was excluded, but in relation only to Acts passed at a later time, by any enactment repealed by this Act;
  - (b) any country or territory which ceased after that time to be part of Her Majesty's dominions but subject to a provision for the continuation of existing law as if it had not so ceased;

and paragraph (b) of the definition does not apply.

- (4) The definition of "Lord Chancellor" does not apply to Acts passed before 1st October 1921 in which that expression was used in relation to Ireland only.
- (5) The definition of "person", so far as it includes bodies corporate, applies to any provision of an Act whenever passed relating to an offence punishable on indictment or on summary conviction.
- (6) This paragraph applies to . . . the Water Act 1973 as if they were passed after 1st April 1974.

## 5

The following definitions shall be treated as included in Schedule 1 for the purposes specified in this paragraph--

- (a) in any Act passed before 1st April 1974, a reference to England includes Berwick upon Tweed and Monmouthshire and, in the case of an Act passed before the Welsh Language Act 1967, Wales;
- (b) in any Act passed before the commencement of this Act and after the year 1850, "land" includes messuages, tenements and hereditaments, houses and buildings of any tenure;
- (c) in any Act passed before the commencement of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975, "the Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland) Acts" means Part II of that Act.

## NOTES

### Derivation

This Schedule derived from the Wales and Berwick Act 1746, s 3; the Interpretation Act 1889, ss 1(2), 2(1), 3, 12(1), 18(3); the Irish Free State (Consequential Adaptation of Enactments) Order 1923, SR & O 1923/405, art 2, Schedule; the National Health Service Reorganisation Act 1973, s 55(2) and the Water Act 1973, s 38(2).

### Initial Commencement

#### *Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

### Amendment

Para 1: entry "Section 14A" inserted by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, s 59(1), (3).

Date in force: 25 April 2013: see the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, s 103(1)(e).

Para 4: in sub-para (1) words omitted repealed, and words in square brackets inserted, by the Family Law Reform Act 1987, ss 33(1), 33(4), Sch 2, para 74, Sch 4, Sch 3, para 1; in sub-para (6) words omitted repealed by the Health Authorities Act 1995, s 5(1), Sch 3.

### Document information

Interpretation Act 1978

**Date made**  
20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/SCHEDULE 2 Application of Act to Existing Enactments/Part II Subordinate Legislation

## Part II

### Subordinate Legislation

## 6

Sections 4(a), 9 and 19(1), and so much of Schedule 1 as defines the following expressions, namely--

. . .

England;

Local land charges register and appropriate local land charges register;

[In relation to Scotland, expressions relating to the police:]

United Kingdom;

Wales,

apply to subordinate legislation made at any time before the commencement of this Act as they apply to Acts passed at that time.

## 7

The definition in Schedule 1 of "county court", in relation to England and Wales, applies to Orders in Council made after the year 1846.

## NOTES

### Derivation

Para 7 derived from the Interpretation Act 1889, s 6.

#### Initial Commencement

##### Specified date

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

#### Amendment

Para 6: words omitted repealed by the British Nationality Act 1981, s 52(8), Sch 9.

Para 6: words "In relation to Scotland, expressions relating to the police;" in square brackets substituted by SI 2013/602, art 26, Sch 2, Pt 1, para 15(1), (4).

Date in force: 1 April 2013: see SI 2013/602, art 1(2); for transitional provisions and savings see art 27, Sch 3 thereto.

#### Document information

Interpretation Act 1978

##### Date made

20/07/1978

UK Parliament Acts//IH-IN/Interpretation Act 1978 (1978 c 30)/SCHEDULE 3 Enactments Repealed

### SCHEDULE 3

#### ENACTMENTS REPEALED

#### Section 25

Chapter or Number	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
Geo 2 c 42	The Wales and Berwick Act 1746	The whole Act.
33 Geo 3 c 13	The Acts of Parliament (Commencement) Act 1793	The words from "and to be the date" to the end.
43 & 44 Vict c 9	The Statutes (Definition of Time) Act 1880	The whole Act.
47 & 48 Vict c 62	The Revenue Act 1884	In section 14, the second paragraph, that is the words from "Any reference" to "Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866" in the second place where that Act is referred to in the section.
52 & 53 Vict c 63	The Interpretation Act 1889	The whole Act except paragraphs (4), (5) and (14) of section 13 in their application to Northern Ireland.
53 & 54 Vict c 21	The Inland Revenue Regulation Act 1890	In section 38(1), the words from "and" to "of this Act".
59 & 60 Vict c 14	The Short Titles Act 1896	Section 3.
SR & O 1923 No 405	The Irish Free State (Consequential Adaptation of Enactments) Order 1923	In the Schedule, the entry relating to the Interpretation Act 1889.
15 & 16 Geo 5 No 1	The Interpretation Measure 1925	Section 1.
17 & 18 Geo 5 c 4	The Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act 1927	In section 2(2) the words "Act passed and".
22 & 23 Geo 5 c 4	The Statute of Westminster 1931	Section 11.
11 & 12 Geo 6 c 7	The Ceylon Independence Act 1947	Section 4(2).
11 & 12 Geo 6 c 50	The British Nationality Act 1948	In section 1(2) the words "other enactment or" and the words "passed or".
15 & 16 Geo 6 & 1 Eliz 2 c 55	The Magistrates' Courts Act 1952	In Schedule 5, the amendment of the Interpretation Act 1889.
4 & 5 Eliz 2 c 76	The Medical Act 1956	Section 52(3).
5 & 6 Eliz 2 c 6	The Ghana Independence Act 1957	Section 4(1).
8 & 9 Eliz 2 c 55	The Nigeria Independence Act 1960	Section 3(1).
9 & 10 Eliz 2 c 16	The Sierra Leone Independence Act 1961	Section 3(1).
10 & 11 Eliz 2 c 1	The Tanganyika Independence Act 1961	Section 3(1).
10 & 11 Eliz 2 c 30	The Northern Ireland Act 1962	Section 27.
10 & 11 Eliz 2 c 40	The Jamaica Independence Act 1962	Section 3(1).
10 & 11 Eliz 2 c 54	The Trinidad and Tobago Independence Act 1962	Section 3(1).
10 & 11 Eliz 2 c 57	The Uganda Independence Act 1962	Section 3(1).
1963 c 33	The London Government Act 1963	In section 1, in subsection (1) the words "and any other" and in subsection (6) the words from "and section 15" to "that is to say".
1963 c 54	The Kenya Independence Act 1963	Section 4(1).
1964 c 46	The Malawi Independence Act 1964	Section 4(1).
1964 c 48	The Police Act 1964	In section 62 the words from "and in any other enactment" to "this Act".
1964 c 86	The Malta Independence Act 1964	Section 4(1).
1964 c 93	The Gambia Independence Act 1964	Section 4(1).
1966 c 14	The Guyana Independence Act 1966	Section 5(1).
1966 c 37	The Barbados Independence Act 1966	Section 4(1).
1967 c 4	The West Indies Act 1967	Section 3(5).
1967 c 66	The Welsh Language Act 1967	Section 4.
1967 c 77	The Police (Scotland) Act 1967	In section 50, the words from "and in any other enactment" to "this Act"; and in section 51, in subsection (4), the words from "and in any other enactment" to "this Act".
1968 c 8	The Mauritius Independence Act 1968	Section 4(1).
1968 c 13	The National Loans Act 1968	Section 1(6).
1970 c 10	The Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970	In section 526, in subsection (1) the words "and in any other Act"; and in subsection (2) the words "and in any Act passed after this Act".
1970 c 50	The Fiji Independence Act 1970	Section 4(1).
1971 c 58	The Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1971	Section 4(1).

1972 c 68	The European Communities Act 1972	In section 4(3) the words from "(which" to "the said section 28".
1972 c 70	The Local Government Act 1972	In section 1(2) the words from "and except" to "Northern Ireland)".
1973 c 14	The Costs in Criminal Cases Act 1973	In section 269 the words from "in every Act" to "that date)" in the second place where those words occur.
1973 c 27	The Bahamas Independence Act 1973	In section 13(1) the words "and in any other enactment providing for the payment of costs out of central funds".
1973 c 32	The National Health Reorganisation Act 1973	Section 4(1).
1973 c 37	The Water Act 1973	In section 55(2), the words from the beginning to "that date; and".
1975 c 21	The Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975	In section 2(3) the words "and any other enactment".
1975 c 72	The Children Act 1975	Section 38(2).
1975 c 76	The Local Land Charges Act 1975	In Schedule 9, paragraph 6.
1976 c 63	The Bail Act 1976	Section 89.
1977 c 45	The Criminal Law Act 1977	In section 4 the words "and any other statutory provision".
1978 c 12	The Medical Act 1978	In Schedule 2, the amendment of the Interpretation Act 1889.
1978 c 15	The Solomon Islands Act 1978	In section 64(1) the words from "and, unless" to "this Act)".
1978 c 20	The Tuvalu Act 1978	In Schedule 5, in paragraph 48 paragraph (b) and the word "and" immediately preceding that paragraph.
		Section 7(1).
		Section 4(1).

**NOTES****Initial Commencement***Specified date*

Specified date: 1 January 1979: see s 26.

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