



# Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954

## CHAPTER 33

### INTERPRETATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954

#### APPLICATION OF THIS ACT MEANING OF CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS AS USED...

##### APPLICATION OF THIS ACT

- 1 Meaning of certain expressions as used in this Act.
- 2 Application of this Act.
- 3 Rules not inconsistent not excluded.

##### OPERATION OF ENACTMENTS

- 4 Acts to be deemed public.
- 5 Provisions in private Acts.
- 6 Enactments to apply to whole of Northern Ireland.
- 7 Crown not bound, unless named.
- 8 References to the Crown, etc.
- 9 Provisions to be substantive enactments.
- 10 Preamble and marginal notes.
- 11 References in enactments.
- 11A References to EU instruments etc which have direct effect
- 12 Amending provisions.
- 13 Date of passing, etc., of enactments.
- 14 Coming into force of enactments.
- 15 Date of expiration of enactments.
- 16 Exercise of powers before enactment comes into force.
- 17 Statutory powers and duties generally.

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- 18 Provisions as to holders of offices.
- 19 Effect of words of incorporation.
- 20 Offences.
- 21 Rules regulating procedure of courts and tribunals.
- 22 Powers of appellate courts.
- 23 Inquiries and investigations
- 24 Service of documents.
- 25 Deviation in forms.
- 26 Oaths, affirmations and declarations.
- 27 Operation of declaration that provisions are to cease to have effect.
- 28 Effect of repeal.
- 29 Effect of substituting provisions.
- 30 Reprints.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ENACTMENTS

- 31 Enactment always speaking.
- 32 Limited nature of powers, privileges or advantages granted by enactments.
- 33 Expressions in instrument have same meaning as in enactment.
- 34 Application of interpretation provisions in enactments.
- 35 Corresponding meanings of parts of speech.
- 36 Names commonly used.
- 37 Rules as to gender and number.
- 38 Construction of “shall” and “may”.
- 39 Time.
- 40 Distance.

#### MEANING OF PARTICULAR WORDS AND PHRASES

- 41 Definitions for parliamentary purposes.
- 42 Definitions for judicial purposes.
- 43 Definitions for official purposes.
- 43A Definitions in connection with police.
- 44 Definitions for local government purposes.
- 44A Definitions relating to the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union
- 45 References relating to land.
- 46 Miscellaneous definitions.

#### CITATION

- 47 Citation of statutory provisions, etc.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL

- 48 Repeals, etc.
- 49 Saving.  
S. 50 rep. by SLR 1973

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51 Short title.

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## SCHEDULES

— Schedule rep. by SLR 1973

### SCHEDULE A1 — PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

- 1 Introductory
- 2 Appointment of person to hold inquiry
- 3 Notification of time and place of inquiry
- 4 Powers to require persons to give evidence etc.
- 5 Oaths and statements
- 6 Offences
- 7 Expenses

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 1(f)(i) words in s. 1(f) renumbered as s. 1(f)(i) by [S.I. 2019/628 reg. 5\(1\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(1)(a) omitted (30.4.2020) by virtue of S.I. 2020/463, regs. 1(1), 10(6)(a))
- s. 1(f)(ii) inserted by [S.I. 2019/628 reg. 5\(1\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 5(1)(c) substituted (30.4.2020) by S.I. 2020/463, regs. 1(1), 10(6)(c))
- s. 20(2) applied (with modifications) by [2015 c. 8 \(N.I.\) s. 125\(1\)](#)
- s. 24 applied (with modifications) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 114\(2\)](#)
- s. 24 excluded by [2015 c. 8 \(N.I.\) s. 124\(2\)](#)
- s. 39(2) excluded by [S.R. 2023/143 art. 2\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.R. 2023/143 revoked before coming into operation (26.9.2023) by The Social Security Benefits Up-rating (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023 (S.R. 2023/150), arts. 1, 33)
- s. 39(2) excluded by [S.R. 2024/69 art. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 39(2) excluded by [S.R. 2024/73 art. 2\(3\)](#)