

Subsidiary Legislation made under ss.184 & 184B.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Investigations in a Civil Context) Order 2019

LN.2019/068

Commencement **28.3.2019**

Amending enactments	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
LN. 2019/226	Art. 2	7.11.2019
2024/154	Art. 35	8.8.2024

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2015-11

Proceeds of Crime

2019/068 **Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Investigations in a Civil Context) Order 2019**

In exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 184 and 184B of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 the Government has made this Order-

Title and commencement.

1.(1) This Order may be cited as the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Investigations in a Civil Context) Order 2019.

(2) This Order comes into operation on the day of publication.

Interpretation.

2.(1) In this Order-

“appropriate officer” means the Attorney General, a police officer or a customs officer;

“Central Authority” means the Minister with responsibility for Justice or any other person or body as may be determined by the Minister for Justice;

“Document”, “excluded material” and “premises” have the same meanings as in the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 2011;

“financial institution” means a person carrying on a business in the regulated sector, but a person who ceases to carry on a business in the regulated sector is to continue to be treated as a financial institution for the purposes of any requirement under a customer information order or an account monitoring order to provide information which relates to a time when the person was a financial institution;

(2) In this Order references to—

(a) a “relevant financial business” and “business in the regulated sector” must be construed in accordance with the Act;

(b) “notice in writing” includes reference to notice given by electronic means.

Scope of this Order

3.(1) This Part has effect for the purpose of enabling an appropriate officer to assist an external investigation by obtaining orders and warrants from the Supreme Court.

(2) The powers conferred by this Part are exercisable in relation to a person or property subject to an external investigation only if the appropriate officer believes paragraph (3) applies in relation to—

- (a) the country or territory of the overseas authority carrying out the external investigation, and
 - (b) Gibraltar.
- (3) This paragraph applies if—
- (a) a criminal investigation in connection with the property has not begun,
 - (b) a criminal investigation in connection with the property has begun but it is unlikely criminal proceedings will be brought, or
 - (c) criminal proceedings brought in connection with the property have been concluded without an order having been made in relation to the property.
- (4) Criminal proceedings have been concluded when—
- (a) the person against whom the criminal proceedings are brought is acquitted,
 - (b) the person against whom the criminal proceedings are brought is pardoned,
 - (c) the person against whom the criminal proceedings are brought is convicted and sentenced,
 - (d) the person against whom the criminal proceedings are brought is convicted and the conviction is quashed,
 - (e) the criminal proceedings are discontinued, or
 - (f) any jury is discharged without a finding otherwise than in circumstances where the criminal proceedings are continued without a jury.

Action on receipt of a request in relation to an external investigation

4.(1) The Central Authority may refer a request for assistance in relation to an external investigation to, an appropriate officer.

(2) The appropriate officer may, on receipt of the request for assistance, act under this Order.

Offences of prejudicing an external investigation

5.(1) This article applies if a person knows or suspects that an appropriate officer is acting (or proposing to act) in connection with an external investigation.

- (2) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) makes a disclosure which is likely to prejudice the external investigation, or
 - (b) falsifies, conceals, destroys or otherwise disposes of, or causes or permits the falsification, concealment, destruction or disposal of, documents which are relevant to the external investigation.
- (3) A person does not commit an offence under paragraph (2)(a) if—
- (a) the person does not know or suspect that the disclosure is likely to prejudice the external investigation,
 - (b) the disclosure is made in the exercise of a function under the Act or any other enactment relating to criminal conduct or benefit from criminal conduct or in compliance with a requirement imposed under or by virtue of the Act,
 - (c) the disclosure is of a matter within section 5(7) of the Act (Tipping-off) and the information on which the disclosure is based came to the person in the course of a business in the regulated sector, or,
 - (d) the person is a professional legal adviser and the disclosure falls within paragraph (4).
- (4) A disclosure falls within this paragraph if it is a disclosure—
- (a) to (or to a representative of) a client of the professional legal adviser in connection with the giving by the adviser of legal advice to the client, or
 - (b) to any person in connection with legal proceedings or contemplated legal proceedings.
- (5) But a disclosure does not fall within paragraph (4) if it is made with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose.

- (6) A person does not commit an offence under paragraph (2)(b) if the person—
- (a) does not know or suspect that the documents are relevant to the external investigation, or
 - (b) does not intend to conceal any facts disclosed by the documents from any appropriate officer acting in connection with the external investigation.
- (7) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (2) is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine or to both.
- (8) For the purposes of this section a business is in the regulated sector if it is engaged in relevant financial business under section 9 of the Act.

PART 1

Production orders

Production orders

6.(1) A judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer, make a production order if the judge is satisfied that each of the requirements for the making of the order is fulfilled.

(2) The application for a production order must state that property specified in the application is subject to an external investigation and the condition in article 3(2) is met in respect of the property.

(3) The application must also state that—

- (a) the order is sought for the purposes of the external investigation,
- (b) the order is sought in relation to material, or material of a description, specified in the application,

- (c) a person specified in the application appears to be in possession or control of the material.
- (4) A production order is an order either—
- (a) requiring the person the application for the order specifies as appearing to be in possession or control of the material to produce it to an appropriate officer for the appropriate officer to take away, or
 - (b) requiring that person to give an appropriate officer access to the material,
- within the period stated in the order.
- (5) The period stated in a production order must be a period of seven days beginning with the day on which the order is made, unless it appears to the judge by whom the order is made that a longer or shorter period would be appropriate in the particular circumstances.

Requirements for making of production order

- 7.(1) These are the requirements for the making of a production order.
- (2) There must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that the property the application for the order specifies as being subject to the external investigation is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct.
 - (3) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that the person the application specifies as appearing to be in possession or control of the material so specified is in possession or control of it.
 - (4) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that the material is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation.
 - (5) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that it is in the public interest for the material to be produced or for access to it to be given, having regard to—
 - (a) the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the material is obtained;
 - (b) the circumstances under which the person the application specifies as appearing to be in possession or control of the material holds it.

Order to grant entry

8.(1) This article applies if a judge makes a production order requiring a person to give an appropriate officer access to material on any premises.

(2) The judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer and specifying the premises, make an order to grant entry in relation to the premises.

(3) An order to grant entry is an order requiring any person who appears to an appropriate officer to be entitled to grant entry to the premises to allow the appropriate officer to enter the premises to obtain access to the material.

Further provisions

9.(1) A production order does not require a person to produce, or give access to, privileged material.

(2) Privileged material is any material which the person would be entitled to refuse to produce on grounds of legal professional privilege in proceedings.

(3) A production order does not require a person to produce, or give access to, excluded material.

(4) A production order has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

(5) An appropriate officer may take copies of any material which is produced, or to which access is given, in compliance with a production order.

(6) Material produced in compliance with a production order may be retained for so long as it is necessary to retain it (as opposed to copies of it) in connection with the external investigation.

(7) But if an appropriate officer has reasonable grounds for believing that—

(a) the material may need to be produced for the purposes of any legal proceedings;
and

(b) it might otherwise be unavailable for those purposes,

it may be retained until the proceedings are concluded.

(8) Material produced in compliance with a production order may be sent to the overseas

authority which made the request for assistance or to the Central Authority for forwarding to that overseas authority.

Computer information

10.(1) This article applies if any of the material specified in an application for a production order consists of information contained in a computer.

(2) If the order requires a person to produce the material to an appropriate officer for the appropriate officer to take away, it has effect as an order to produce the material in a form in which it—

- (a) can be taken away by the appropriate officer and,
- (b) is visible and legible.

(3) If the order requires a person to give an appropriate officer access to the material, it has effect as an order to give the appropriate officer access to the material in a form in which it is visible and legible.

Government departments

11.(1) A production order may be made in relation to material in the possession or control of a Government department.

(2) An order so made may require any officer of the department (whether named in the order or not) who may for the time being be in possession or control of the material to comply with it.

(3) An order containing such a requirement must be served as if the proceedings were civil proceedings against the department.

(4) If an order contains such a requirement—

- (a) the person on whom it is served must take all reasonable steps to bring it to the attention of the officer concerned,
- (b) any other officer of the department who is in receipt of the order must also take all reasonable steps to bring it to the attention of the officer concerned.

(5) If the order is not brought to the attention of the officer concerned within the period stated in the order (in pursuance of article 6(4)) the person on whom it is served must report the reasons for the failure to a judge.

Supplementary

12.(1) An application for a production order or an order to grant entry may be made ex parte to a judge in chambers.

(2) An application to discharge or vary a production order or an order to grant entry may be made to the court by—

- (a) the person who applied for the order,
- (b) any person affected by the order.

(3) The court—

- (a) may discharge the order,
- (b) may vary the order.

(4) If an appropriate officer applies for a production order or an order to grant entry, an application to discharge or vary the order need not be by the same appropriate officer.

(5) References to a person who applied for a production order or an order to grant entry must be construed accordingly.

(6) Production orders and orders to grant entry have effect as if they were orders of the court.

PART 2

Search and seizure warrants

Search and seizure warrants

13.(1) A judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer, issue a search and seizure warrant if the judge is satisfied—

- (a) that property specified in the application is subject to an external investigation,

- (b) the condition in article 3(2) is met in respect of the property, and
 - (c) either of the requirements in paragraph (4) is fulfilled.
- (2) The application must also state—
 - (a) the warrant is sought for the purposes of the external investigation,
 - (b) the warrant is sought in relation to the premises specified in the application,
 - (c) the warrant is sought in relation to material specified in the application, or that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is material falling within article 14(5) on the premises.
- (3) A search and seizure warrant is a warrant authorising an appropriate officer—
 - (a) to enter and search the premises specified in the application for the warrant, and
 - (b) to seize and retain any material found there which is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation.
- (4) The requirements for the issue of a search and seizure warrant are—
 - (a) that a production order made in relation to material has not been complied with and there are reasonable grounds for believing that the material is on the premises specified in the application for the warrant, or
 - (b) that article 14 is satisfied in relation to the warrant.

Requirements where production order not available

- 14.(1) This article is satisfied in relation to a search and seizure warrant if—
 - (a) paragraph (2) applies, and
 - (b) either the first or the second set of conditions is complied with.
- (2) This paragraph applies if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the property specified in the application for the warrant is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct.
- (3) The first set of conditions is that there are reasonable grounds for believing that—

- (a) any material on the premises specified in the application for the warrant is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation,
 - (b) it is in the public interest for the material to be obtained, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the material is obtained, and
 - (c) it would not be appropriate to make a production order for any one or more of the reasons in paragraph (4).
- (4) The reasons are—
- (a) that it is not practicable to communicate with any person against whom the production order could be made,
 - (b) that it is not practicable to communicate with any person who would be required to comply with an order to grant entry to the premises,
 - (c) that the external investigation might be seriously prejudiced unless an appropriate officer is able to secure immediate access to the material.
- (5) The second set of conditions is that—
- (a) there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is material on the premises specified in the application for the warrant and that the material falls within paragraph (6),
 - (b) there are reasonable grounds for believing that it is in the public interest for the material to be obtained, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the material is obtained, and
 - (c) any one or more of the requirements in paragraph (7) is satisfied.
- (6) Material falls within this paragraph if it cannot be identified at the time of the application but it—
- (a) relates to the property specified in the application, the question whether it is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct, the question as to who holds any such property, any question as to whether the person who appears to hold any such property holds other property which is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct, or any question as to the extent or whereabouts of any property mentioned in this paragraph, and

- (b) is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation.
- (6) The requirements are—
 - (a) that it is not practicable to communicate with any person entitled to grant entry to the premises,
 - (b) that entry to the premises will not be granted unless a warrant is produced, and
 - (c) that the external investigation might be seriously prejudiced unless an appropriate officer arriving at the premises is able to secure immediate entry to them.

Further provisions: general

15.(1) This article applies to search and seizure warrants sought for the purposes of an external investigation.

- (2) An application for a warrant may be made ex parte to a judge in chambers.
- (3) A warrant may be issued subject to conditions.
- (4) A search and seizure warrant does not confer the right to seize privileged material.
- (5) Privileged material is any material which a person would be entitled to refuse to produce on grounds of legal professional privilege in proceedings.
- (6) A search and seizure warrant does not confer the right to seize excluded material.
- (7) A warrant continues in force until the end of the period of one month starting with the day on which it is issued.
- (8) A warrant authorises the person it names to require any information which is held in a computer and is accessible from the premises specified in the application for the warrant, and which the named person believes relates to any matter relevant to the external investigation, to be produced in a form—
 - (a) in which it can be taken away and is visible and legible, or
 - (b) from which it can readily be produced in a visible and legible form.

(9) A warrant may include provision authorising a person who is exercising powers under it to do other things which—

- (a) are specified in the warrant, and
- (b) need to be done in order to give effect to it.

(10) Copies may be taken of any material seized under a warrant.

(11) Material seized under a warrant may be retained for so long as it is necessary to retain it (as opposed to copies of it) in connection with the external investigation.

(12) But if the appropriate officer has reasonable grounds for believing that—

- (a) the material may need to be produced for the purposes of any legal proceedings, and
- (b) it might otherwise be unavailable for those purposes,

it may be retained until the proceedings are concluded.

(13) Material seized under a warrant may be sent to the overseas authority which made the request for assistance or to the Central Authority for forwarding to that overseas authority.

PART 3

Disclosure orders

Disclosure orders

16.(1) A judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer, make a disclosure order if the judge is satisfied that each of the requirements for the making of the order is fulfilled.

(2) The application for a disclosure order must state that—

- (a) property specified in the application is subject to an external investigation,
- (b) the order is sought for the purposes of the investigation, and
- (c) the condition in article 3(2) is met in respect of the property.

(3) A disclosure order is an order authorising an appropriate officer to give to a person the appropriate officer considers has relevant information, notice in writing requiring the person to do, with respect to any matter relevant to the external investigation, any or all of the following—

- (a) answer questions, either at a time specified in the notice or at once, at a place so specified,
- (b) provide information specified in the notice, by a time and in a manner so specified,
- (c) produce documents, or documents of a description, specified in the notice, either at or by a time so specified or at once, and in a manner so specified.

(4) Relevant information is information (whether or not contained in a document) which the appropriate officer concerned considers to be relevant to the external investigation.

(5) A person is not bound to comply with a requirement imposed by a notice given under a disclosure order unless evidence of authority to give the notice is produced to them.

Requirements for making of disclosure order

17.(1) These are the requirements for the making of a disclosure order.

(2) There must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that the property specified in the application for the order is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct.

(3) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that information which may be provided in compliance with a requirement imposed under the order is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation.

(4) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that it is in the public interest for the information to be provided, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the information is obtained.

Offences

18.(1) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse the person fails to comply with a requirement imposed on the person under a disclosure order.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) is liable on summary conviction to—

- (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months,
 - (b) a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or
 - (c) both.
- (3) A person commits an offence if, in purported compliance with a requirement imposed on the person under a disclosure order, the person—
- (a) makes a statement which the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular, or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (3) is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both, or
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.

Statements

19.(1) A statement made by a person in response to a requirement imposed on them under a disclosure order may not be used in evidence against them in criminal proceedings.

- (2) But paragraph (1) does not apply—
- (a) in the case of proceedings under Part 2 of the Act,
 - (b) in the case of proceedings under Part 2 or 4 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2019,
 - (c) on a prosecution for an offence under article 18(1) or (3) of this Order,
 - (d) on a prosecution for an offence under section 163(1) or (3) of the Act,
 - (e) on a prosecution for an offence for perjury or false statements, or
 - (f) on a prosecution for some other offence where, in giving evidence, the person makes a statement inconsistent with the statement mentioned in paragraph (1).

- (3) A statement may not be used by virtue of paragraph (2)(f) against a person unless—
- (a) evidence relating to it is adduced, or
 - (b) a question relating to it is asked,

by them or on their behalf in the proceedings arising out of the prosecution.

Further provisions

20.(1) A disclosure order does not confer the right to require a person to answer any privileged question, provide any privileged information or produce any privileged document, except that a lawyer may be required to provide the name and address of their client.

(2) A privileged question is a question which the person would be entitled to refuse to answer on grounds of legal professional privilege in proceedings.

(3) Privileged information is any information which the person would be entitled to refuse to provide on grounds of legal professional privilege in proceedings.

(4) Privileged material is any material which the person would be entitled to refuse to produce on grounds of legal professional privilege in proceedings.

(5) A disclosure order does not confer the right to require a person to produce excluded material.

(6) A disclosure order has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

(7) An appropriate officer may take copies of any documents produced in compliance with a requirement to produce them which is imposed under a disclosure order.

(8) Documents so produced may be retained for so long as it is necessary to retain them (as opposed to a copy of them) in connection with the external investigation.

- (9) But if an appropriate officer has reasonable grounds for believing that—
- (a) the documents may need to be produced for the purposes of any legal proceedings, and
 - (b) the appropriate officer might otherwise be unavailable for those purposes,

the documents may be retained until the proceedings are concluded.

(10) Material produced in compliance with a disclosure order may be sent to the overseas authority which made the request for assistance or to the Central Authority for forwarding to that overseas authority.

Supplementary

21.(1) An application for a disclosure order may be made ex parte to a judge.

(2) An application to discharge or vary a disclosure order may be made to the court by—

- (a) the person who applied for the order,
- (b) any person affected by the order.

(3) The court—

- (a) may discharge the order,
- (b) may vary the order.

(4) If an appropriate officer applies for a disclosure order, an application to discharge or vary the order need not be by the same appropriate officer.

(5) References to a person who applied for a disclosure order must be construed accordingly.

PART 4

Customer information orders

Customer information orders

22.(1) A judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer, make a customer information order if the judge is satisfied that each of the requirements for the making of the order is fulfilled.

(2) The application for a customer information order must state that—

- (a) the property specified in the application is subject to an external investigation,

- (b) the condition in article 3(2) is met in respect of the property, and
 - (c) a person specified in the application appears to hold the property.
- (3) The application must also state that—
- (a) the order is sought for the purposes of the external investigation,
 - (b) the order is sought against the financial institution or financial institutions specified in the application.
- (4) An application for a customer information order may specify—
- (a) all financial institutions,
 - (b) a particular description, or particular descriptions, of financial institutions, or
 - (c) a particular financial institution or particular financial institutions.
- (5) A customer information order is an order that a financial institution covered by the application for the order must, on being required to do so by notice in writing given by an appropriate officer, provide any such customer information as it has relating to the person specified in the application.
- (6) A financial institution which is required to provide information under a customer information order must provide the information to an appropriate officer in such manner, and at or by such time, as an appropriate officer requires.
- (7) If a financial institution on which a requirement is imposed by a notice given under a customer information order requires the production of evidence of authority to give the notice, it is not bound to comply with the requirement unless evidence of the authority has been produced to it.

Meaning of customer information

23.(1) “Customer information”, in relation to a person and a financial institution, is information whether the person holds, or has held, an account or accounts or any safe deposit box at the financial institution (whether solely or jointly with another) and (if so) information as to—

- (a) the matters specified in paragraph (2) if the person is an individual,

- (b) the matters specified in paragraph (3) if the person is a company or limited liability partnership or a similar body incorporated or otherwise established outside Gibraltar.
- (2) The matters referred to in paragraph (1)(a) are—
- (a) the account number or numbers or the number of any safe deposit box,
 - (b) the person's full name,
 - (c) the person's date of birth,
 - (d) the person's most recent address and any previous addresses,
 - (e) in the case of an account or accounts, the date or dates on which the person began to hold the account or accounts and, if the person ceased to hold the account or any of the accounts, the date or dates on which the person did so,
 - (f) in the case of any safe deposit box, the date on which the box was made available to them and if the box has ceased to be available to them the date on which it so ceased,
 - (g) such evidence of identity as was obtained by the financial institution under or for the purposes of any legislation relating to money laundering,
 - (h) the full name, date of birth and most recent address, and any previous addresses, of any person who holds, or has held, an account at the financial institution jointly with them,
 - (i) the account number or numbers of any other account or accounts held at the financial institution to which the person is a signatory and details of the person holding the other account or accounts.
- (3) The matters referred to in paragraph (1)(b) are—
- (a) the account number or numbers or the number of any safe deposit box,
 - (b) the person's full name,
 - (c) a description of any business which the person carries on,

- (d) the country or territory in which it is incorporated or otherwise established and any number allocated to it by virtue of section 15 of the Companies Act 2014 or corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside Gibraltar,
 - (e) any number assigned to it for the purposes of income or other tax,
 - (f) its registered office, and any previous registered offices, under the Companies Act 2014 (or corresponding earlier legislation) or anything similar under corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside the Gibraltar,
 - (g) its registered office, and any previous registered offices, under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2008 or anything similar under corresponding legislation of any country or territory outside Gibraltar,
 - (h) in the case of an account or accounts, the date or dates on which it began to hold the account or accounts and, if it has ceased to hold the account or any of the accounts, the date or dates on which it did so,
 - (i) in the case of any safe deposit box, the date on which the box was made available to it and if the box has ceased to be available to it the date on which it so ceased,
 - (j) such evidence of identity as was obtained by the financial institution under or for the purposes of any legislation relating to money laundering,
 - (k) the full name, date of birth and most recent address and any previous addresses of any person who is a signatory to the account or any of the accounts.
- (4) A “safe deposit box” includes any procedure under which a financial institution provides a facility to hold items for safe keeping on behalf of another person.
- (5) Money laundering is an act which—
- (a) constitutes an offence under section 2, 3 or 4 of the Act,
 - (b) constitutes an offence specified in section 35, 36, 37 or 39 of the Terrorism Act 2018, or
 - (c) would constitute an offence specified in paragraph (a) or (b) if done in Gibraltar.

Requirements for making of customer information order

24.(1) These are the requirements for the making of a customer information order.

- (2) There must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that—
- (a) the property specified in the application for the order is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct,
 - (b) the person specified in the application holds all or some of the property.
- (3) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that customer information which may be provided in compliance with the order is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation.
- (4) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that it is in the public interest for the customer information to be provided, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the information is obtained.

Offences

25.(1) A financial institution commits an offence if without reasonable excuse it fails to comply with a requirement imposed on it under a customer information order.

(2) A financial institution guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

(3) A financial institution commits an offence if, in purported compliance with a customer information order, it—

- (a) makes a statement which it knows to be false or misleading in a material particular,
or
- (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular.

(4) A financial institution guilty of an offence under paragraph (3) is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

Statements

26.(1) A statement made by a financial institution in response to a customer information order may not be used in evidence against it in criminal proceedings.

- (2) But paragraph (1) does not apply—
- (a) in the case of proceedings under Part 2 of the Act or of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2019,
 - (b) on a prosecution for an offence under article 25(1) or (3) of this Order,
 - (c) on a prosecution for an offence under section 170(1) or (3) of the Act, or
 - (d) on a prosecution for some other offence where, in giving evidence, the financial institution makes a statement inconsistent with the statement mentioned in paragraph (1).
- (3) A statement may not be used by virtue of paragraph (2)(d) against a financial institution unless—
- (a) evidence relating to it is adduced, or
 - (b) a question relating to it is asked,

by or on behalf of the financial institution in the proceedings arising out of the prosecution.

Disclosure of information

27. A customer information order has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

Supplementary

28.(1) An application for a customer information order may be made *ex parte* to a judge in chambers.

- (2) An application to discharge or vary a customer information order may be made to the court by—
- (a) the person who applied for the order,
 - (b) any person affected by the order.
- (3) The court—

- (a) may discharge the order,
 - (b) may vary the order.
- (4) If an appropriate officer applies for a customer information order, an application to discharge or vary the order need not be by the same appropriate officer.
- (5) References to a person who applied for a customer information order must be construed accordingly.

PART 5

Account monitoring orders

Account monitoring orders

- 29.(1) A judge may, on an application made to the judge by an appropriate officer, make an account monitoring order if the judge is satisfied that each of the requirements for the making of the order is fulfilled.
- (2) The application for an account monitoring order must state that—
- (a) property specified in the application is subject to an external investigation,
 - (b) the condition in article 3(2) is met in respect of the property, and
 - (c) a person specified in the application appears to hold the property.
- (3) The application must also state that—
- (a) the order is sought for the purposes of the external investigation,
 - (b) the order is sought against the financial institution specified in the application in relation to account information of the description so specified.
- (4) Account information is information relating to an account or accounts held at the financial institution specified in the application by the person so specified (whether solely or jointly with another).
- (5) The application for an account monitoring order may specify information relating to—

- (a) all accounts held by the person specified in the application for the order at the financial institution so specified,
 - (b) a particular description, or particular descriptions, of accounts so held, or
 - (c) a particular account, or particular accounts, so held.
- (6) An account monitoring order is an order that the financial institution specified in the application for the order must, for the period stated in the order, provide account information of the description specified in the order to an appropriate officer in the manner, and at or by the time or times, stated in the order.
- (7) The period stated in an account monitoring order must not exceed the period of 90 days beginning with the day on which the order is made.

Requirements for making of account monitoring order

- 30.(1) These are the requirements for the making of an account monitoring order.
- (2) There must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that—
 - (a) the property specified in the application for the order is property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct,
 - (b) the person specified in the application holds all or some of the property.
 - (3) There must be reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) account information which may be provided in compliance with the order is likely to be of substantial value (whether or not by itself) to the external investigation, and
 - (b) it is in the public interest for the account information to be provided, having regard to the benefit likely to accrue to the external investigation if the information is obtained.

Statements

- 31.(1) A statement made by a financial institution in response to an account monitoring order may not be used in evidence against it in criminal proceedings.
- (2) But paragraph (1) does not apply—

- (a) in the case of proceedings under Part 2 of the Act or of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2019,
 - (b) in the case of proceedings for contempt of court, or
 - (c) on a prosecution for an offence where, in giving evidence, the financial institution makes a statement inconsistent with the statement mentioned in paragraph (1).
- (3) A statement may not be used by virtue of paragraph (2)(c) against a financial institution unless—
- (a) evidence relating to it is adduced, or
 - (b) a question relating to it is asked,

by or on behalf of the financial institution in the proceedings arising out of the prosecution.

Applications

32. An application for an account monitoring order may be made ex parte to a judge in chambers.

Disclosure of information

33. An account monitoring order has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

Supplementary

34.(1) An application to discharge or vary an account monitoring order may be made to the court by—

- (a) the person who applied for the order,
 - (b) any person affected by the order.
- (2) The court—
- (a) may discharge the order,
 - (b) may vary the order.

(3) If an appropriate officer applies for an account monitoring order, an application to discharge or vary the order need not be made by the same appropriate officer.

(4) References to a person who applied for an account monitoring order must be construed accordingly.

(5) Account monitoring orders have effect as if they were orders of the court.

Requests under the Strasbourg Convention or Warsaw Convention.

35.(1) A request-

(a) received by the Central Authority under the Warsaw Convention or Strasbourg Convention; or

(b) sent by the Central Authority under the Warsaw Convention or Strasbourg Convention,

must comply with the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (External Investigations in a Civil Context under the Strasbourg Convention or Warsaw Convention) Order 2024.

(2) For the purposes of this Article-

“Strasbourg Convention” means the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime signed in Strasbourg on the 8th November 1990;

“Warsaw Convention” means the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism signed on the 16th May 2005 in Warsaw.