

Counter-terrorism legislation – an overview

There is no international consensus on the legal definition of terrorism. In this guidance, when we refer to terrorism and related terms, we are using the definition used in UK criminal law as set out in the [Terrorism Act 2000](#). The full wording of this can be found by clicking [here](#).¹

The [Terrorism Act 2000](#) is the primary piece of counter-terrorism legislation in the UK. It was passed on 20 July 2000 and came into force on 19 February 2001.

Other relevant legislation includes:

[The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001](#)

[Terrorism Act 2006](#)

[Counter Terrorism Act 2008](#)

[Terrorist Asset Freezing etc Act 2010](#)

[Terrorism Prevention and Investigations Measures Act 2011](#)

[Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#)

These create a number of offences related to terrorism, including fundraising for and the financing and support of terrorist activities, running terrorist training activities and encouraging terrorism. They give a number of powers to the police to help in investigating and dealing with terrorism. The [Terrorism Act 2000](#) provides a power for the Home Secretary to 'proscribe' organisations. This affects charities and their trustees in a number of ways, particularly where proscribed groups, terrorist financing and duties to report suspicions are concerned. Under the [Terrorist Asset Freezing etc Act 2010](#), persons or entities are designated because HM Treasury has reasonable grounds to suspect (in the case of an interim designation) or believe (in the case of a final designation) that they are or have been involved in terrorist activity or are owned, controlled or acting on behalf of or at the direction of someone who does.

The [Terrorism Act 2000](#) creates a number of offences including:

- being a member of a proscribed organisation;
- arranging a meeting to encourage support for a proscribed organisation or addressed by a person who belongs to a proscribed organisation;
- raising funds for or donating money to a proscribed organisation;
- receiving or providing money or property where it is intended, or there is reasonable cause to suspect that it may be used for the purposes of terrorism;
- facilitating the laundering of terrorist money; and
- failing to report suspicions of terrorist finance offences to the police.

¹ It should be noted that the legislation on the Website appears as first published and does not necessarily show any amendments or if it has been repealed.

The Terrorism Act 2006 includes other offences concerned with:

- preparation of terrorist acts;
- providing training for terrorism or receiving the training;
- attending any place, whether in the UK or elsewhere, where terrorism training is being conducted; and
- encouraging terrorism, including publishing statements that encourage and glorify terrorist acts.

The Terrorist Asset Freezing etc Act 2010 includes offences concerned with:

- Making funds, financial services or economic resources available to or for the benefit of a designated person
- Dealing with funds or economic resources owned, held or controlled by a designated person.

Of particular relevance in the Terrorism Act 2000 are the amendments made (by the Counter Terrorism Act 2008) to the reporting requirements of 'belief or suspicion' of offences related to terrorist property, to make clear they apply to the trustees of charities.

There is also secondary legislation that is relevant to counter-terrorism, including The Afghanistan (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1893) and The Al-Qaida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/2742). These are covered in detail in the [Designated individuals and entities](#) section.

The [Counter-terrorism legislation – a brief description of key Acts](#) section includes an overview of the contents of these Acts and an outline of some of their key provisions.