STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2024 No. 1050 (C. 71)

PUBLIC ORDER

The Public Order Act 2023 (Commencement No. 5) (England and Wales) Regulations 2024

Made - - - - 21st October 2024

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the power conferred by section 35(5) of the Public Order Act 2023(**a**).

Citation and extent

1. —(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Public Order Act 2023 (Commencement No. 5) (England and Wales) Regulations 2024.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales only.

Commencement

2. Section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023 (offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services) comes into force on 31st October 2024.

Diana Johnson
Minister of State
Home Office

21st October 2024

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations bring into force provisions of the Public Order Act 2023 (c. 15) ("the Act"). They are the sixth commencement regulations to be made under the Act, but the fifth which extend only to England and Wales.

Regulation 2 brings into force section 9 of the Act.

Section 9 of the Act establishes "safe access zones" around abortion clinics. It makes it an offence within a safe access zone to intentionally or recklessly influence, obstruct, or cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person in connection with their decision to access, provide, or facilitate the provision of abortion services at an abortion clinic. It defines the boundaries of safe access zones and outlines exceptions, such as for activities inside dwellings or places of worship. It also specifies the maximum penalty for the offence, which is an unlimited fine.

A full impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as the Regulations themselves have no impact on the private, voluntary or public sector. A full impact assessment has been

(**a**) 2023 c. 15.

prepared in relation to the Act, and a copy is available at https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3153/publications. A hard copy can be obtained by writing to the Home Office, Direct Communications Unit, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, United Kingdom.

NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The following provisions of the Public Order Act 2023 (c. 15) have been brought into force by commencement regulations made before the date of these Regulations.

Provision	*Date of Commencement*	*S.I. No.*
section 1	3rd May 2023	2023/502
section 2	3rd May 2023	2023/502
section 3	2nd July 2023	2023/733
section 4	2nd July 2023	2023/733
section 5	2nd July 2023	2023/733
section 6	2nd July 2023	2023/733
section 7 (remainder)	3rd May 2023	2023/502
section 8	3rd May 2023	2023/502
section 10	20th December 2023	2023/1418
section 11	20th December 2023	2023/1418
section 12	20th December 2023	2023/1418
section 13 (remainder)	20th December 2023	2023/1418
section 14	20th December 2023	2023/1418
section 15	3rd May 2023	2023/502
section 17	2nd July 2023	2023/733
section 20	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 21	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 22	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 23	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 24	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 25	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 26	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 27	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 28	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 29	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 30	1st December 2023	2023/1281
section 31	1st December 2023	2023/1281
section 32	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 33	5th April 2024	2024/472
section 34	3rd May 2023	2023/502

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