

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](#).

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
- Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005
- The Terrorism Act 2006
- The Counter-Terrorism Act 2008

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.

For example, 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.

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.

Of particular relevance in the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 are the amendments made 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 Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Orders 2001, 2006 and 2009 and the Al Qaida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Orders 2002 and 2006. These are covered in detail in the [Designated individuals and entities](#) section.

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