

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACTS
DECLARATION

Declaration to be signed by all non-industrial civil servants on leaving the service, also by non-civil servants on ceasing to have access to secret information

My attention has been drawn to the provisions of the Official Secrets Acts which are set out on the back of this document, and I am fully aware that serious consequences may follow any breach of those provisions.

I understand

- (1) that the provisions of the Official Secrets Acts apply to me after my appointment has ceased;
- (2) that all the information which I have acquired or to which I have had access owing to my official position is information which is covered by Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, as amended, and that the Official Secrets Acts apply to all such information which has not already officially been made public;
- (3) that the sections of the Official Secrets Acts set out on the back of this document cover material published in a speech, lecture, radio or television broadcast or in the Press or in book form or otherwise and that I am liable to be prosecuted if either in the United Kingdom or abroad I communicate, either orally or in writing, including publication in a speech, lecture, radio or television broadcast or in the Press or in book form or otherwise, to any unauthorised person any information acquired by me as a result of my appointment (save such as has already officially been made public) unless I have previously obtained the official sanction in writing of the Department by which I was appointed;
- (4) that to obtain such sanction, two copies of the manuscript of any article, book, play, film, speech or broadcast, intended for publication, which contains information which I have acquired or to which I have had access owing to my official position, or of any material otherwise to be published which contains such information, should be submitted to the Head of the Department;
- (5) that when my appointment ends I should surrender any sketch, plan, model, article, note or document made or acquired by me during the tenure of the appointment (even if such sketch, plan, model, article, note or document is not classified) save such as I have been officially sanctioned in writing by the Department to retain, and that I am liable to be prosecuted if I retain any such sketch, plan, model, article, note or document without such official sanction.

Signed.....

Surname (Block Letters).....

Forename(s).....

Date of Birth..... *28th March 1907*

Permanent (home) address.....

Hants.....

Date..... *26th April 1962*

I acknowledge a copy of the Official ~~Secrets~~ Acts Declaration.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACTS, 1911 AND 1920

Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, as amended by the Official Secrets Act, 1920 provides as follows:—

" 2 (1) If any person having in his possession or control any secret official code word, or pass word, or any sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information which relates to or is used in a prohibited place or anything in such a place, or which has been made or obtained in contravention of this Act, or which has been entrusted in confidence to him by any person holding office under Her Majesty, or which he has obtained or to which he has had access owing to his position as a person who holds or has held office under Her Majesty, or as a person who holds or has held a contract made on behalf of Her Majesty, or as a person who is or has been employed under a person who holds or has held such an office or contract,—

- (a) communicates the code word, pass word, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information to any person, other than a person to whom he is authorised to communicate it, or a person to whom it is in the interests of the State his duty to communicate it, or
- (aa) uses the information in his possession for the benefit of any foreign power or in any other manner prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State:
- (b) retains the sketch, plan, model, article, note, or document in his possession or control when he has no right to retain it or when it is contrary to his duty to retain it or fails to comply with all directions issued by lawful authority with regard to the return or disposal thereof: or
- (c) fails to take reasonable care of, or so conducts himself as to endanger the safety of the sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, secret official code or pass word or information:

that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

(1A) If any person having in his possession or control any sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information which relates to munitions of war, communicates it directly or indirectly to any foreign power, or in any other manner prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State, that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

(2) If any person receives any secret official code word, or pass word, or sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information, knowing, or having reasonable ground to believe, at the time when he receives it, that the code word, pass word, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information is communicated to him in contravention of this Act, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, unless he proves that the communication to him of the code word, pass word, sketch, plan, model, article, note, document, or information was contrary to his desire."

Section 1 (2) of the Official Secrets Act, 1920, provides as follows:—

" (2) If any person—

- (a) retains for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State any official document, whether or not completed or issued for use, when he has no right to retain it, or when it is contrary to his duty to retain it, or fails to comply with any directions issued by any Government Department or any person authorised by such department with regard to the return or disposal thereof: or
- (b) allows any other person to have possession of any official document issued for his use alone, or communicates any secret official code word or pass word so issued, or, without lawful authority or excuse, has in his possession any official document or secret official code word or pass word issued for the use of some person other than himself, or on obtaining possession of any official document by finding or otherwise, neglects or fails to restore it to the person or authority by whom or for whose use it was issued, or to a police constable; or
- (c) without lawful authority or excuse, manufactures or sells, or has in his possession for sale any such die, seal or stamp as aforesaid

he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour."