

# Public Sector Website Impersonation Bill

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Create an offence of impersonating a public sector website for the purpose of collecting payment or personal data; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## 1 Impersonating a public sector website

- (1) A person who impersonates a public sector website for the purpose of—
  - (a) collecting payment, or
  - (b) collecting personal datacommits an offence. 5
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction in England and Wales, to a fine;
  - (b) on summary conviction in Scotland or Northern Ireland, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.
- (3) In determining the amount of any fine to be imposed on a person convicted of an offence under this section, the court must in particular have regard to any financial benefit which has accrued or appears likely to accrue to that person in consequence of the offence. 10
- (4) The Secretary of State may issue guidance on steps that may be taken to make clear that a website is not a public sector website. 15
- (5) In this section, “public sector” means the central government, regional, local or other public authorities, other bodies governed by public law or public undertakings of the United Kingdom.

## 2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 20
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 90 days beginning on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Public Sector Website Impersonation Act 2021.

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*Presented by John Spellar*

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
Printed, 21st June 2021.

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