

Power of
commission to
compel attendance
of witnesses
and production
of documents,
etc.

8. (1) The commission may for the purposes of any proceedings before it under this Act, by summons under the hand of the chairman or the secretary of the commission, require any person who it has reason to believe may be able to give material information concerning the subject-matter of the proceedings, or to produce any book, document or thing which has any bearing on the subject-matter of the proceedings, to appear personally before the commission, or any member of the commission designated by the commission, at a time and place stated in the summons, and to produce any such book, document or thing which he may be able to produce.

(2) A summons referred to in sub-section (1) shall be in the form prescribed, and shall be served in the same manner as a subpoena in a criminal case issued by a magistrate's court.

(3) The commission, or any member of the commission designated by the commission in terms of sub-section (1), before whom any person summoned in terms of sub-section (1) appears as a witness, may interrogate such person and require him to produce any book, document or thing mentioned in the summons which he may be able to produce, and for this purpose the chairman or, in his absence, any other member of the commission (if such person appears before the commission) or the member of the commission before whom such person appears, may administer an oath to him or require him to make affirmation of the truth of his testimony. Any book, document or thing produced by any person under this sub-section may be retained for a reasonable period for examination by or on the order of the commission.

(4) Any person who, having been duly summoned under sub-section (1), without lawful excuse fails to appear in obedience to the summons or to remain in attendance until he is excused from further attendance, or who without lawful excuse refuses to be sworn or to make affirmation or to answer any relevant question lawfully put to him or to produce any book, document or thing referred to in sub-section (1) which he may be able to produce, or who, while he is under oath or affirmation, makes any false statement before the commission or the person interrogating him, which he knows to be false, shall be guilty of an offence: Provided that in connection with the interrogation of any such person or the production of any such book, document or thing, the law relating to privilege, as applicable to a witness subpoenaed to give evidence or to produce any document or thing before a court of law, shall apply.

(5) Any person who—

(a) refuses or fails to comply to the best of his ability with any reasonable requirement of the commission, or any member of the commission designated in terms of sub-section (1), in connection with the exercise of its or his functions under this section; or

(b) wilfully hinders or obstructs the commission or any such member in the exercise of those functions,
shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) Any person convicted of an offence under this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Grant or
refusal of
licence. Matters
to be considered.

9. (1) The commission may in its discretion grant an application for a licence or for the renewal of a licence, subject to such conditions as may be attached to a licence under section