
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1987 No. 463

The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

[^{F1}Temporary powers to deal with activities in a locality

[^{F1}Powers to require removal of disguises

23A.—(1) Where—

- (a) an authorisation under paragraph (3) that the powers conferred by paragraph (2) shall be exercisable at any place in a locality is in force for any period, or
- (b) an authorisation under Article 23B is for the time being in force in relation to any locality for any period,

those powers shall be exercisable at any place in that locality at any time in that period.

(2) This paragraph confers power on any constable in uniform—

- (a) to require any person to remove any item which the constable reasonably believes that person is wearing wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing his identity;
- (b) to seize any item which the constable reasonably believes any person intends to wear wholly or mainly for that purpose.

(3) If a police officer of or above the rank of inspector reasonably believes—

- (a) that activities may take place in any locality that are likely (if they take place) to involve the commission of offences, and
- (b) that it is expedient, in order to prevent or control the activities, to give an authorisation under this paragraph,

he may give an authorisation that the powers conferred by this Article shall be exercisable at any place within that locality for a specified period not exceeding twenty-four hours.

(4) If it appears to an officer of or above the rank of superintendent that it is expedient to do so, having regard to offences which—

- (a) have been committed in connection with the activities in respect of which the authorisation was given, or
- (b) are reasonably suspected to have been so committed,

he may direct that the authorisation shall continue in force for a further twenty-four hours.

(5) If an officer below the rank of superintendent gives an authorisation under paragraph (3), he must, as soon as it is practicable to do so, cause an officer of or above that rank to be informed.

(6) Any authorisation under this Article—

- (a) shall be in writing and signed by the officer giving it; and

Changes to legislation: *The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Section 23A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) shall specify—

(i) the grounds on which it is given;

(ii) the locality in which the powers conferred by this Article are exercisable;

(iii) the period during which those powers are exercisable;

and a direction under paragraph (4) shall also be given in writing or, where that is not practicable, recorded in writing as soon as it is practicable to do so.

(7) A person who fails to remove an item worn by him when required to do so by a constable in the exercise of his power under this Article shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or both.

(8) The powers conferred by this Article are in addition to, and not in derogation of, any power otherwise conferred.]

F1 2001 c. 24

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument amended by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(1\)Sch.3 para.3](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- arts.5(2)66A7(1) revoked by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)