



# Firearms Act 1968

## 1968 CHAPTER 27

### PART I

#### PROVISIONS AS TO POSSESSION, HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION; PREVENTION OF CRIME AND MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

##### *Prevention of crime and preservation of public safety*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>23** [<sup>F2</sup>Exceptions from s. 22(4)].

(1) It is not an offence under section 22(4) of this Act for a person to have with him an air weapon or ammunition while he is under the supervision of a person of or over the age of twenty-one; but where a person has with him an air weapon on any premises in circumstances where he would be prohibited from having it with him but for this subsection, it is an offence [<sup>F3</sup>for the person under whose supervision he is to allow him to use it for firing any missile beyond those premises].

[<sup>F4</sup>(1A) In proceedings against a person for an offence under subsection (1) it shall be a defence for him to show that the only premises into or across which the missile was fired were premises the occupier of which had consented to the firing of the missile (whether specifically or by way of a general consent).]

(2) It is not an offence under section 22(4) <sup>F5</sup>... of this Act for a person to have with him an air weapon or ammunition at a time when—

- (a) being a member of a rifle club or miniature rifle club for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section or [<sup>F6</sup>section 15 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988], he is engaged as such a member <sup>F7</sup>... in connection with [<sup>F8</sup>target shooting]; or
- (b) he is using the weapon or ammunition at a shooting gallery where the only firearms used are either air weapons or miniature rifles not exceeding .23 inch calibre.

**Changes to legislation:** Firearms Act 1968, Section 23 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 April 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

[<sup>F9</sup>(3) It is not an offence under section 22(4) of this Act for a person of or over the age of fourteen to have with him an air weapon or ammunition on private premises with the consent of the occupier.

<sup>F10</sup>(4) .....]]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 23 repealed (S.) (31.12.2016) by Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 (asp 10), s. 88(2), **sch. 2 para. 1(5)**; S.S.I. 2016/130, art. 3(c)
- F2** S. 23 heading substituted (20.1.2004) by virtue of Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), **ss. 38(3), 93**; S.I. 2003/3300, **art. 2(c)(ii)**
- F3** S. 23(1): words substituted (1.10.2007) for s. 23(1)(a)(b) by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (c. 38), ss. {34(3)(a)}, 66(2); S.I. 2007/2180, **art. 3(d)**
- F4** S. 23(1A) inserted (1.10.2007) by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (c. 38), **ss. 34(3)(b), 66(2)**; S.I. 2007/2180, **art. 3(d)**
- F5** Words in s. 23(2) repealed (20.1.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), ss. 38(3)(a), 92, 93, **Sch. 3**; S.I. 2003/3300, **art. 2(g)(ii)(a)**
- F6** Words substituted by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 (c. 45, SIF 51:1), **s. 23(4)**
- F7** Words in s. 23(2)(a) repealed (1.7.1997) by 1997 c. 5, s. 52(2), **Sch. 3**; S.I. 1997/1535, art. 3(b), **Sch. Pt. I**
- F8** Words in s. 23(2) substituted (1.10.1997) by 1997 c. 5, s. 52(1), **Sch. 2 para. 3**; S.I. 1997/1535, art. 3(c), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F9** S. 23(3)(4) inserted (20.1.2004) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), **ss. 38(3)(b), 93**; S.I. 2003/3300, **art. 2(c)(ii)**
- F10** S. 23(4) repealed (1.10.2007) by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (c. 38), ss. 34(3)(c), 65, 66(2), **Sch. 5**; S.I. 2007/2180, **arts. 3(d), 4(f)(i)**

**Changes to legislation:**

Firearms Act 1968, Section 23 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 April 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 23(2)(b) words substituted by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(3\)](#)

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

- Act amended by [1997 c. 5 s. 12\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

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

- s. 3A inserted by [2023 c. 49 s. 2](#)
- s. 11(3A)-(4A) substituted for s. 11(4) by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 51(2A) added by [1997 c. 48 s. 62\(1\)Sch. 1 para. 3](#)