



Sexual Offences Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 44

An Act to make, as respects England and Wales, provision for penalising in certain circumstances the soliciting of women for sexual purposes by men, and to increase the penalties under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 for certain offences against women. [16th July 1985]

Be 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:—

Commencement Information

II Act not in force at Royal Assent; Act wholly in force at 16.9.1985 see s. 5(4)

F1 Soliciting for the purpose of prostitution

Textual Amendments

F1 Heading substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(2\)](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

1 Kerb-crawling.

- (1) A [^{F2}person] commits an offence if he solicits [^{F3}another person] (or different [^{F4}persons]) for the purpose of prostitution—
- (a) from a motor vehicle while it is in a street or public place; or
 - (b) in a street or public place while in the immediate vicinity of a motor vehicle that he has just got out of or off,
- persistently or, ^{F5} . . . in such manner or in such circumstances as to be likely to cause annoyance to [^{F6}the person](or any of the [^{F4}persons]) solicited, or nuisance to other persons in the neighbourhood.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/05/2004.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sexual Offences Act 1985 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale ^{F7}. . . .
- (3) In this section “motor vehicle” has the same meaning as in [^{F8}the Road Traffic Act 1988].

Textual Amendments

- F2** Word in s. 1 substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(3\)\(a\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F3** Words in s. 1 substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(3\)\(b\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F4** Word in s. 1 substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(3\)\(c\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F5** Words in s. 1(1) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993, c. 50, s. 1(1); Sch. 1, Pt. I Gp. 1
- F6** Words in s. 1 substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(3\)\(d\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F7** Words in s. 1(2) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993, c. 50, s. 1(1); Sch. 1, Pt. XIV
- F8** Words substituted by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54, SIF 107:1\), s. 4, Sch. 4 para. 29](#)

2 [^{F9}Persistent soliciting].

- (1) A [^{F10}person] commits an offence if in a street or public place he persistently solicits a [^{F11}another person] (or different [^{F12}persons]) for the purpose of prostitution.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale ^{F13}. . . .

Textual Amendments

- F9** S. 2 heading substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(4\)\(a\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F10** Word in s. 2(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(4\)\(b\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F11** Words in s. 2(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(4\)\(c\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F12** Word in s. 2(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\), s. 141, Sch. 1 para. 4\(4\)\(d\); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2](#)
- F13** Words in s. 2(2) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993, c. 50, s. 1(1); Sch. 1, Pt. XIV

Increase of penalties

^{F143} Penalties for certain sexual offences.

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Status: Point in time view as at 01/05/2004.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sexual Offences Act 1985 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F14 S. 3 repealed (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 7](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

Supplementary

4 Interpretation.

(1) References in this Act to a [^{F15}person] soliciting [^{F16}another person] for the purpose of prostitution are references to his soliciting [^{F17}that person] for the purpose of obtaining [^{F18}that person's] services as a prostitute.

^{F19}(2)

^{F19}(3)

(4) For the purposes of this Act “street” includes any bridge, road, lane, footway, subway, square, court, alley or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, which is for the time being open to the public; and the doorways and entrances of premises abutting on a street (as hereinbefore defined), and any ground adjoining and open to a street, shall be treated as forming part of the street.

Textual Amendments

F15 Word in s. 4(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(5\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

F16 Words in s. 4(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(5\)\(c\)](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

F17 Words in s. 4(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(5\)\(d\)](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

F18 Words in s. 4(1) substituted (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(5\)\(e\)](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

F19 S. 4(2)(3) repealed (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, [Sch. 1 para. 4\(5\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 7](#); S.I. 2004/874, art. 2; S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

5 Short title, commencement etc.

(1) This Act may be cited as the Sexual Offences Act 1985.

^{F20}(2)

(3) The enactments mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(4) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

(5) Nothing in this Act shall apply in relation to any offence committed or act done before this Act comes into force.

^{F21}(6)

(7) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/05/2004.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sexual Offences Act 1985 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F20** S. 5(2) repealed (1.5.2004) by Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42), s. 141, Sch. 7; S.I. 2004/874, art. 2
- F21** S. 5(6) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993, c. 50, s. 1(1); Sch. 1, Pt.I Gp. 1

Status: Point in time view as at 01/05/2004.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sexual Offences Act 1985 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE

REPEALS

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 33.	Indecency with Children Act 1960.	In section 2(3), the words “and 17(i)” and paragraph (c).
1984 c. 60.	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.	In section 24(2)(c), the words “14 (indecent assault on a woman)”.

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/05/2004.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sexual Offences Act 1985 (repealed).