



Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 53

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

98 General interpretation.

(1) In this Act—

“disqualified” means disqualified for holding or obtaining a licence and “disqualification” is to be construed accordingly,

“drive” has the same meaning as in the ^{M1}Road Traffic Act 1988,

“licence” means a licence to drive a motor vehicle granted under Part III of that Act ^{F1} . . . ,

“provisional licence” means a licence granted by virtue of section 97(2) of that Act,

“the provisions connected with the licensing of drivers” means sections 7, 8, 22, 25 to 29, 31, ^{F2} . . . 34 to 48, [^{F3}91ZA, 91A], 96 and 97 of this Act,

“road”—

(a) in relation to England and Wales, means any highway and any other road to which the public has access, and includes bridges over which a road passes, and

(b) in relation to Scotland, [^{F4} means any road within the meaning of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 and any other way to which the public has access, and includes bridges over which a road passes,],

“the Road Traffic Acts” means the ^{M2}Road Traffic Act 1988, the Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (so far as it reproduces the effect of provisions repealed by that Act) and this Act, and

“the Traffic Acts” means the Road Traffic Acts and the ^{M3}Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

[^{F5} and “Community licence”, ^{F6} . . . [^{F7}, “EEA State” and “Northern Ireland licence”] have the same meanings as in Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988]

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, Section 98 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

- (2) Sections 185 and 186 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (meaning of “motor vehicle” and other expressions relating to vehicles) apply for the purposes of this Act as they apply for the purposes of that ^{F8}Act].
- (3) In the Schedules to this Act—
 “RTRA” is used as an abbreviation for the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and
 “RTA” is used as an abbreviation for the Road Traffic Act 1988 ^{F9}or, if followed by “1989”, the Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989].
- (4) Subject to any express exception, references in this Act to any Part of this Act include a reference to any Schedule to this Act so far as relating to that Part.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 98(1): words in definition of "licence" repealed (1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/1974, reg. 3, **Sch. 2**, para. 6(a)(i)
- F2** Word in s. 98(1) omitted (8.6.2015) by virtue of The Road Safety Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/583), art. 1(1), **Sch. 2 para. 3(i)**
- F3** Words in s. 98(1) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 61(a)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F4** Words in s. 98(1) substituted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 111(1)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F5** S. 98(1): definition inserted (1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/1974, reg. 3, **Sch. 2 para. 6(b)**
- F6** Words in s. 98(1) repealed (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), Sch. 3 para. 61(b), **Sch. 7(4)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3 (with arts. 4-9)
- F7** Words in s. 98(1) substituted (11.10.2004) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), s. 94(1), **Sch. 5 para. 35(b)**; S.I. 2004/2624, art. 2(1)(2)(b)
- F8** Word in s. 98(2) added (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 111(2)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F9** Words inserted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 26**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1988 c. 52.
M2 1988 c. 54.
M3 1984 c. 27.

Changes to legislation:

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 98(1) words inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 18\(4\)](#)

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

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

- s. 29(2A) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 34\(2\)](#)
- s. 30A-30D inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 34\(3\)](#)
- s. 30C(5)(f) words substituted by [S.I. 2009/1885 Sch. 1 para. 15](#)
- s. 34A(7A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 34B(12) added by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 34D-34G inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 15\(1\)](#)
- s. 34D(1)(d) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 34D(3) words inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 34D(5A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 34D(6)(a) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(d\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 34D(6)(b) words substituted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 34D(6A) inserted by [2009 c. 25 Sch. 21 para. 90\(5\)\(e\)](#)
- s. 34F(5)(f) words substituted by [S.I. 2009/1885 Sch. 1 para. 17](#)
- s. 35A(6)(a) words substituted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 13 para. 8\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 35A(6) omitted (13.4.2015) by virtue of Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), ss. 30(1)(c), 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 25)
- s. 35A(6)(b) words inserted by [2012 c. 10 Sch. 13 para. 8\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 35A(6) omitted (13.4.2015) by virtue of Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (c. 2), ss. 30(1)(c), 95(1); S.I. 2015/778, art. 3, Sch. 1 para. 25)
- s. 36(13A) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 37\(6\)](#)
- s. 40B(9) words substituted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 2 para. 33](#)
- s. 41B inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 15\(2\)](#)
- s. 84(1) s. 84 renumbered as s. 84(1) by [2004 c. 28 s. 16\(3\)](#)
- s. 84(2)(3) inserted by [2004 c. 28 s. 16\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 3(aa) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 15\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 4(za) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 15\(3\)\(b\)](#)