



Policing and Crime Act 2017

2017 CHAPTER 3

PART 4

POLICE POWERS

CHAPTER 7

MARITIME ENFORCEMENT: NORTHERN IRISH OFFENCES

Supplementary provision

112 Maritime enforcement powers: supplementary: protective searches

- (1) This section applies where a power conferred by section 109 is exercised in relation to a ship.
- (2) A law enforcement officer may search any person found on the ship for anything which the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person might use to—
 - (a) cause physical injury,
 - (b) cause damage to property, or
 - (c) endanger the safety of any ship.
- (3) The power under subsection (2) may be exercised on board the ship or elsewhere.
- (4) A law enforcement officer searching a person under subsection (2) may seize and retain anything found if the law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person might use it for a purpose mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of that subsection.
- (5) Anything seized under subsection (4) may be retained only for so long as there are reasonable grounds to believe that it might be used as mentioned in that subsection.

Changes to legislation: Policing and Crime Act 2017, Cross Heading: Supplementary provision is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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](#)

- (6) The power to search a person conferred by subsection (2) does not authorise a law enforcement officer to require the person to remove any clothing in public, other than an outer coat, jacket or gloves.

Commencement Information

I1 [S. 112](#) in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see [s. 183](#)

113 Maritime enforcement powers: other supplementary provision

- (1) A law enforcement officer may—
- (a) be accompanied by other persons, and
 - (b) take equipment or materials,
- to assist the officer in the exercise of powers under this Chapter.
- (2) A law enforcement officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the performance of functions under this Chapter.
- (3) A person accompanying a law enforcement officer under subsection (1) may perform any of the officer's functions under this Chapter, but only under the officer's supervision.
- (4) A law enforcement officer must produce evidence of the officer's authority if asked to do so.
- (5) The powers conferred by this Chapter do not affect any other powers that a law enforcement officer may have.

Commencement Information

I2 [S. 113](#) in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see [s. 183](#)

114 Maritime enforcement powers: offences

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) intentionally obstructs a law enforcement officer in the performance of functions under this Chapter, or
 - (b) fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement imposed by a law enforcement officer in the performance of those functions.
- (2) A person who provides information in response to a requirement imposed by a law enforcement officer in the performance of functions under this Chapter commits an offence if—
- (a) the information is false in a material particular, and the person either knows it is or is reckless as to whether it is, or
 - (b) the person intentionally fails to disclose any material particular.
- (3) A law enforcement officer may arrest without warrant anyone whom the officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be guilty of an offence under this section.

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- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Commencement Information

I3 S. 114 in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see s. 183

115 Interpretation

- (1) In this Chapter—

“designated NCA officer” means a National Crime Agency officer who is either or both of the following—

- (a) an officer designated under section 10 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 as having the powers and privileges of a constable who is entitled to exercise the powers and privileges of a Northern Ireland constable (see paragraph 11(6) of Schedule 5 to that Act);
- (b) an officer designated under that section as having the powers of a general customs official;

“foreign ship” means a ship which—

- (a) is registered in a State other than the United Kingdom, or
- (b) is not so registered but is entitled to fly the flag of a State other than the United Kingdom;

“home state”, in relation to a foreign ship, means—

- (a) the State in which the ship is registered, or
- (b) the State whose flag the ship is otherwise entitled to fly;

“items subject to legal privilege” has the same meaning as in the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12)) (see article 12 of that Order);

“law enforcement officer” has the meaning given by section 107(3);

“maritime enforcement powers” has the meaning given by section 107(2);

“Northern Ireland waters” means the sea and other waters within the seaward limits of the territorial sea adjacent to Northern Ireland;

“relevant territory” means—

- (a) the Isle of Man;
- (b) any of the Channel Islands;
- (c) a British overseas territory;

“ship” includes every description of vessel (including a hovercraft) used in navigation;

“ship without nationality” means a ship which—

- (a) is not registered in, or otherwise entitled to fly the flag of, any State or relevant territory, or
- (b) sails under the flags of two or more States or relevant territories, or under the flags of a State and relevant territory, using them according to convenience;

“United Kingdom ship” means a ship which—

- (a) is registered under Part 2 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995,
- (b) is a Government ship within the meaning of that Act,

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- (c) is not registered in any State or relevant territory but is wholly owned by persons each of whom has a United Kingdom connection, or
 - (d) is registered under an Order in Council under section 1 of the Hovercraft Act 1968.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (c) of the definition of “United Kingdom ship” in subsection (1), a person has a “United Kingdom connection” if the person is—
- (a) a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen or a British Overseas citizen,
 - (b) an individual who is habitually resident in the United Kingdom, or
 - (c) a body corporate which is established under the law of a part of the United Kingdom and has its principal place of business in the United Kingdom.
- (3) References in this Chapter to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea include references to any modifications of that Convention agreed after the passing of this Act that have entered into force in relation to the United Kingdom.

Commencement Information

I4 [S. 115](#) in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see [s. 183](#)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing S.I. 2017/1139, reg. 2 by [S.I. 2017/1162 reg. 2](#)