



# Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959

1959 CHAPTER 37 7 and 8 Eliz 2

An Act to amend the law in relation to the making and disposing and importation of flick knives and other dangerous weapons. [14th May 1959]

## 1 Penalties for offences in connection with dangerous weapons.

(1) Any person who manufactures, sells or hires or offers for sale or hire, <sup>[F1]</sup>or exposes or has in his possession for the purpose of sale or hire] or lends or gives to any other person—

- (a) any knife which has a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in or attached to the handle of the knife, sometimes known as a “flick knife” or “flick gun”; or
- (b) any knife which has a blade which is released from the handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force and which, when released, is locked in place by means of a button, spring, lever, or other device, sometimes known as a “gravity knife”,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction in the case of a first offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding <sup>[F2]</sup>fifty pounds<sup>[F2]</sup>level 4 on the standard scale] or to both such imprisonment and fine, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding <sup>[F2]</sup>two hundred pounds<sup>[F2]</sup>level 4 on the standard scale] or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) The importation of any such knife as is described in the foregoing subsection is hereby prohibited.

### Textual Amendments

**F1** Words inserted by [Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1961 \(c. 22\), s. 1](#)

**F2** Words beginning “level 4” substituted (S.) for “fifty pounds” and “two hundred pounds” by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\), ss. 289E–289G](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** *Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 July 2019. 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*

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 1 amended by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 46(1), [Sch. 8 para. 16](#)
- C2** [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 289E](#) (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions), applies (S.)
- C3** [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 35](#) (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions), 38 (increase of fines) and 46 (substitution of references to levels on the standard scale) apply (E.W.)
- C4** S. 1(2) extended to Northern Ireland by [Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1961 \(c. 22\)](#), [s. 2](#)

**2 Short title, commencement and extent.**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation at the expiration of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C5** S. 2(3) excluded by [Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1961 \(c. 22\)](#), [s. 2](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 28 July 2019. 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.

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

- s. 1(1)(a) substituted by [2019 c. 17 s. 43\(1\)](#)
- s. 1(2) words substituted by [2019 c. 17 s. 44\(3\)](#)

**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. 1(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 44\(2\)](#)
- s. 1(3)-(8) inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 44\(4\)](#)