



# Terrorism Act 2000

## 2000 CHAPTER 11

### PART VI

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### *Terrorist offences*

#### **54 Weapons training.**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he provides instruction or training in the making or use of—
  - (a) firearms,
  - (b) explosives, or
  - (c) chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.
- (2) A person commits an offence if he receives instruction or training in the making or use of—
  - (a) firearms,
  - (b) explosives, or
  - (c) chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.
- (3) A person commits an offence if he invites another to receive instruction or training and the receipt—
  - (a) would constitute an offence under subsection (2), or
  - (b) would constitute an offence under subsection (2) but for the fact that it is to take place outside the United Kingdom.
- (4) For the purpose of subsections (1) and (3)—
  - (a) a reference to the provision of instruction includes a reference to making it available either generally or to one or more specific persons, and
  - (b) an invitation to receive instruction or training may be either general or addressed to one or more specific persons.

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- (5) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section in relation to instruction or training to prove that his action or involvement was wholly for a purpose other than assisting, preparing for or participating in terrorism.
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, to a fine or to both, or
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.
- (7) A court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under this section may order the forfeiture of anything which the court considers to have been in the person's possession for purposes connected with the offence.
- (8) Before making an order under subsection (7) a court must give an opportunity to be heard to any person, other than the convicted person, who claims to be the owner of or otherwise interested in anything which can be forfeited under that subsection.
- (9) An order under subsection (7) shall not come into force until there is no further possibility of it being varied, or set aside, on appeal (disregarding any power of a court to grant leave to appeal out of time).

## 55 Weapons training: interpretation.

In section 54—

“biological weapon” means anything to which section 1(1)(b) of the <sup>M1</sup>Biological Weapons Act 1974 applies,

“chemical weapon” has the meaning given by section 1 of the <sup>M2</sup>Chemical Weapons Act 1996, and

“nuclear weapon” means a weapon which contains nuclear material within the meaning of Article 1(a) and (b) of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material opened for signature at Vienna and New York on 3rd March 1980 (set out in the Schedule to the <sup>M3</sup>Nuclear Material (Offences) Act 1983).

### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1974 c. 6.

**M2** 1996 c. 6.

**M3** 1983 c. 18.

## 56 Directing terrorist organisation.

- (1) A person commits an offence if he directs, at any level, the activities of an organisation which is concerned in the commission of acts of terrorism.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life.

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## **57 Possession for terrorist purposes.**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he possesses an article in circumstances which give rise to a reasonable suspicion that his possession is for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism.
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that his possession of the article was not for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism.
- (3) In proceedings for an offence under this section, if it is proved that an article—
  - (a) was on any premises at the same time as the accused, or
  - (b) was on premises of which the accused was the occupier or which he habitually used otherwise than as a member of the public,the court may assume that the accused possessed the article, unless he proves that he did not know of its presence on the premises or that he had no control over it.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, to a fine or to both, or
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.

## **58 Collection of information.**

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) he collects or makes a record of information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, or
  - (b) he possesses a document or record containing information of that kind.
- (2) In this section “record” includes a photographic or electronic record.
- (3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that he had a reasonable excuse for his action or possession.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, to a fine or to both, or
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.
- (5) A court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under this section may order the forfeiture of any document or record containing information of the kind mentioned in subsection (1)(a).
- (6) Before making an order under subsection (5) a court must give an opportunity to be heard to any person, other than the convicted person, who claims to be the owner of or otherwise interested in anything which can be forfeited under that subsection.
- (7) An order under subsection (5) shall not come into force until there is no further possibility of it being varied, or set aside, on appeal (disregarding any power of a court to grant leave to appeal out of time).

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VALID FROM 16/02/2009

**[<sup>F1</sup>58A Eliciting, publishing or communicating information about members of armed forces etc**

- (1) A person commits an offence who—
  - (a) elicits or attempts to elicit information about an individual who is or has been—
    - (i) a member of Her Majesty's forces,
    - (ii) a member of any of the intelligence services, or
    - (iii) a constable,
 which is of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, or
  - (b) publishes or communicates any such information.
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that they had a reasonable excuse for their action.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or to a fine, or to both;
  - (b) on summary conviction—
    - (i) in England and Wales or Scotland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
    - (ii) in Northern Ireland, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both.
- (4) In this section “the intelligence services” means the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service and GCHQ (within the meaning of section 3 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994 (c. 13)).
- (5) Schedule 8A to this Act contains supplementary provisions relating to the offence under this section.]

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 58A inserted (16.2.2009) by Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 (c. 28), ss. 76(1)(2), 100(5) (with s. 101(2)); S.I. 2009/58, art. 2(d)

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