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## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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# 1989 No. 1341

## The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

### PART III

#### POWERS OF ENTRY, SEARCH AND SEIZURE

##### *Seizure etc.*

##### **General power of seizure etc.**

**21.**—(1) The powers conferred by paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) are exercisable by a constable who is lawfully on any premises.

(2) The constable may seize anything which is on the premises if he has reasonable grounds for believing—

- (a) that it has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence; and
- (b) that it is necessary to seize it in order to prevent it being concealed, lost, damaged, altered or destroyed.

(3) The constable may seize anything which is on the premises if he has reasonable grounds for believing—

- (a) that it is evidence in relation to an offence which he is investigating or any other offence; and
- (b) that it is necessary to seize it in order to prevent the evidence being concealed, lost, damaged, altered or destroyed.

(4) The constable may require any information which is<sup>F1</sup> stored in any electronic form] and is accessible from the premises to be produced in a form in which it can be taken away and in which it is visible and legible<sup>F2</sup> or from which it can readily be produced in a visible and legible form] if he has reasonable grounds for believing—

- (a) that—
  - (i) it is evidence in relation to an offence which he is investigating or any other offence; or
  - (ii) it has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence; and
- (b) that it is necessary to do so in order to prevent it being concealed, lost, tampered with or destroyed.

(5) The powers conferred by this Article are in addition to any power otherwise conferred.

(6) No power of seizure conferred on a constable under any statutory provision (including a statutory provision passed or made after the making of this Order) is to be taken to authorise the seizure of an item which the constable exercising the power has reasonable grounds for believing to be subject to legal privilege.

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**Changes to legislation:** *The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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*

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**F1** 2001 c. 16

**F2** 2001 c. 16

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

- C1** Art. 21 applied (with modifications) (1.12.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Application to Revenue and Customs\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2007 \(S.R. 2007/464\)](#), arts. 3-15, **Sch. 1**, Sch. 2
- C2** Art. 21 applied (with modifications) (18.5.2009) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Application to the Police Ombudsman\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2009 \(S.R. 2009/142\)](#), art. 3, **Sch. 1**, Sch. 2
- C3** Art. 21 applied by 1994 c. 33, s. 139(10B)(a) (as inserted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 1.3.2018 in so far as not already in operation) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 17 para. 4(9)**; S.I. 2018/227, art. 2(g))

**Changes to legislation:**

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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

- various legislation applied by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 161\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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

- Order applied by [2016 c. 18 \(N.I.\) s. 150\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Order excluded by [2012 c. 9 Sch. 1 para. 7\(5\)](#)
- Order extended by [2003 c. 6 Sch. 4 para. 23A \(as inserted\) by S.I. 2007/912 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 5](#)

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

- [Sch. 2A para. 1\(4\) inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- [Sch. 2A para. 2\(2\)\(c\) and word inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- [Sch. 2A para. 9\(4\) inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- [Sch. 2A para. 10\(5\) inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- [Sch. 2A para. 2\(2\)\(b\) words substituted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- [art. 62\(10\)\(ab\) words substituted in earlier affecting provision 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\), Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(b\) by 2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- [art. 3\(9ZA\)\(9ZB\) inserted by 2019 c. 17 s. 12\(5\)](#)
- [art. 19\(1\)\(cc\) inserted by S.I. 2007/916 \(N.I.\) art. 18\(2\)](#)
- [art. 53\(3A\)\(3B\) inserted by 2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- [art. 53\(3A\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 15\(4\)](#)
- [art. 53\(4\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 9\(6\)](#)
- [art. 53B inserted by 2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 3](#)
- [art. 56\(13A\)\(b\)\(iii\) and word substituted for word by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- [art. 56\(13A\)\(b\)\(iii\) words substituted in earlier affecting provision 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\), Sch. 2 para. 6\(1\)\(b\) by 2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- [art. 56A\(9\)\(b\)\(iii\) and word substituted for word by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- [art. 56A\(9\)\(b\)\(iii\) words substituted in earlier affecting provision 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\), Sch. 2 para. 6\(2\)\(b\) by 2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- [art. 61\(5A\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- [art. 61\(5A\)\(b\) words substituted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- [art. 61\(5B\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 8\(2\)](#)
- [art. 61\(5B\)\(b\) words substituted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- [art. 61\(5C\) inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- [art. 61\(6\)-\(6ZD\) substituted for art. 61\(6\) by 2010 c. 17 s. 8\(3\)](#)
- [art. 61\(6D\)-\(6G\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 9\(1\)](#)
- [art. 61\(6BA\) inserted by 2008 c. 28 s. 12\(2\) \(This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 omitted \(14.12.2011\) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31\(2\), Sch. 7 para. 5\(3\)\)](#)
- [art. 62\(2A\)\(2B\) inserted by 2010 c. 17 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- [art. 62\(10\)\(ab\) inserted by 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- [art. 62\(10\)\(ab\) words substituted in earlier affecting provision 2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\), Sch. 2 para. 6\(3\)\(b\) by 2022 c. 4 \(N.I.\) s. 4\(9\)\(e\)](#)
- [art. 63\(3A\)\(c\)\(i\) word substituted by 2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 4](#)
- [art. 63\(3B\)-\(3BD\) substituted for art. 63\(3B\) by 2010 c. 17 s. 8\(7\)](#)

- art. 63(3C) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 63(3D)-(3G) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 9\(4\)](#)
- art. 63(3AA) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- art. 63(3ZA) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 8\(5\)](#)
- art. 63(3ZA)(b)(iii) and word inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 83\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 63A(1E)(1F) inserted by [2010 c. 17 s. 11\(1\)](#)
- art. 63A(6A) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(4\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 63B-63R inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 2](#)
- art. 63D(1)(a) substituted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- art. 63D(1)(a)(i) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63D(14) words inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- art. 63D(14) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63N substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 86](#)
- art. 63R(4A) inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 4 para. 20\(9\)](#)
- art. 63R(4B) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 18 para. 5\(8\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of art. 63R by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.) Sch. 2 remains prospective at 31.12.2023.)
- art. 63R(5) words substituted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 87\(a\)](#)
- art. 63R(5A)(5B) inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 87\(b\)](#)
- art. 63DA inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- art. 63DA heading words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63DA(1)(a) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63DA(4) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1386 Sch. para. 9\(6\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertions of ss. 63D and 63DA by 2013 c. 7 (N.I.), Sch. 2 and 2019 c. 3, Sch. 2 para. 5 respectively are still prospective)
- art. 63GA inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 84](#)
- art. 63KA inserted by [2015 c. 9 \(N.I.\) s. 85](#)
- art. 64(1AA) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 12\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 omitted (14.12.2011) by virtue of 2011 c. 23, ss. 29, 31(2), Sch. 7 para. 5(3))
- art. 64(1AB) inserted by [2008 c. 28 s. 15\(5\)](#)
- art. 89(2A) inserted by [2013 c. 7 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 5](#)