
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 1341

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

PART IV

ARREST

Search upon arrest

34.—(1) A constable may search an arrested person, in any case where the person to be searched has been arrested at a place other than a police station, if the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that the arrested person may present a danger to himself or others.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) to (5), a constable shall also have power in any such case—

(a) to search the arrested person for anything—

(i) which he might use to assist him to escape from lawful custody; or

(ii) which might be evidence relating to an offence; and

[^{F1}(b) if the offence for which he has been arrested is an indictable offence, to enter and search any premises in which he was when arrested or immediately before he was arrested for evidence relating to the offence.]

(3) The power to search conferred by paragraph (2) is only a power to search to the extent that is reasonably required for the purpose of discovering any such thing or any such evidence.

(4) The powers conferred by this Article to search a person are not to be construed as authorising a constable to require a person to remove any of his clothing in public other than an outer coat, jacket, headgear or gloves [^{F2} but they do authorise a search of a person's mouth].

(5) A constable may not search a person in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2) unless he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to be searched may have concealed on him anything for which a search is permitted under that sub-paragraph.

(6) A constable may not search premises in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (2) unless he has reasonable grounds for believing that there is evidence for which a search is permitted under that paragraph on the premises.

(7) In so far as the power of search conferred by sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (2) relates to premises consisting of two or more separate dwellings, it is limited to a power to search—

(a) any dwelling in which the arrest took place or in which the person arrested was immediately before his arrest; and

(b) any parts of the premises which the occupier of any such dwelling uses in common with the occupiers of any other dwellings comprised in the premises.

(8) A constable searching a person in the exercise of the power conferred by paragraph (1) may seize and retain anything he finds, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person searched might use it to cause physical injury to himself or to any other person.

Changes to legislation: *The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 34 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 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*

(9) A constable searching a person in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2) may seize and retain anything he finds, other than an item subject to legal privilege, if he has reasonable grounds for believing—

- (a) that he might use it to assist him to escape from lawful custody; or
- (b) that it is evidence of an offence or has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence.

(10) Nothing in this Article shall be taken to affect the powers conferred by^{F3} section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000].

- F1** Art. 34(2)(b) substituted (1.3.2007) by [Police and Criminal Evidence \(Amendment\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/288 \(N.I. 2\)\)](#), arts. 1(2), **17(2)**
- F2** 1995 NI 17
- F3** 2000 c. 11

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Art. 34(1)-(9) 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. 34(1)-(9) 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

Changes to legislation:

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, Section 34 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 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)
- art. 34(2)(a)(ii) applied (with modifications) by 2016 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141(4)(a)
- art. 34(2)(b) applied (with modifications) by 2016 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141(4)(a)
- art. 34(3) applied (with modifications) by 2016 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141(4)(b)
- art. 34(6) applied (with modifications) by 2016 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141(4)(a)
- art. 34(7) applied (with modifications) by 2016 c. 18 (N.I.) s. 141(4)(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](#)