



# Road Traffic Act 1972

## 1972 CHAPTER 20

### PART I

#### PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

##### *Offences connected with riding of pedal cycles*

#### **17 Reckless, and dangerous, cycling**

If a person rides a cycle, not being a motor vehicle, on a road recklessly or at a speed or in a manner which is dangerous to the public, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including the nature, condition and use of the road and the amount of traffic which is actually at the time, or which might reasonably be expected to be, on the road, he shall be guilty of an offence.

In this section " road " includes a bridleway.

#### **18 Careless, and inconsiderate, cycling**

If a person rides a cycle, not being a motor vehicle, on a road without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road, he shall be guilty of an offence.

In this section " road " includes a bridleway.

#### **19 Cycling when under influence of drink or drugs**

- (1) A person who, when riding a cycle, not being a motor vehicle, on a road or other public place, is unfit to ride through drink or drugs shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person liable to be charged with an offence under this section shall not be liable to be charged—
  - (a) under section 12 of the Licensing Act 1872, with the offence of being drunk while in charge, on a highway or other public place, of a carriage, or

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

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- (b) under section 70 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1903, with the offence of being drunk while in charge, in a street or other place, of a carriage.
- (3) A constable may arrest without warrant a person committing an offence under this section.
- (4) In this section " unfit to ride through drink or drugs " means, as regards a person riding a cycle, under the influence of drink or a drug to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of it.
- (5) In this section " road " includes a bridleway.

## **20 Regulation of cycle racing on highways**

- (1) A person who promotes or takes part in a race or trial of speed on a public highway between cycles, not being motor vehicles, shall be guilty of an offence, unless the race or trial is authorised, and is conducted in accordance with any conditions imposed, by or under regulations under this section.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations authorise, or provide for authorising, for the purposes of subsection (1) above, the holding on a public highway other than a bridleway of races or trials of speed of any class or description or a particular race or trial of speed, in such cases as may be prescribed and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by or under the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under this section may—
  - (a) prescribe the procedure to be followed, and the particulars to be given, in connection with applications for authorisation under the regulations, and
  - (b) make different provision for different classes or descriptions of race or trial.
- (4) Without prejudice to any other powers exercisable in that behalf, the chief officer of police may give such directions with respect to the movement of, or the route to be followed by, vehicular traffic, during such period, as may be necessary or expedient to prevent or mitigate congestion or obstruction of traffic, or danger to or from traffic, in consequence of the holding of a race or trial of speed authorised by or under regulations under this section, including a direction that any road or part of a road specified in the direction shall be closed during any such period to vehicles or to vehicles of a class so specified.
- (5) In this section " public highway " includes a bridleway but not a footpath.

## **21 Restriction on carriage of persons on bicycles**

It shall not be lawful for more than one person to be carried on a road on a bicycle not propelled by mechanical power unless it is constructed or adapted for the carriage of more than one person ; and if a person is carried on a bicycle in contravention of this section, each of the persons carried shall be guilty of an offence. In this section references to a person carried on a bicycle include references to a person riding the bicycle and the reference to a road includes a reference to a bridleway.