



# Criminal Law Act 1977

## 1977 CHAPTER 45

### PART I

#### CONSPIRACY

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

**C1** Pt. I (ss. 1-5) extended (1.10.1996) by 1996 c. 29, ss.1, 3; S.I. 1996/2262, art.2.

#### 1 The offence of conspiracy.

[<sup>F1</sup>(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part of this Act, if a person agrees with any other person or persons that a course of conduct shall be pursued which, if the agreement is carried out in accordance with their intentions, either—

- (a) will necessarily amount to or involve the commission of any offence or offences by one or more of the parties to the agreement, or
- (b) would do so but for the existence of facts which render the commission of the offence or any of the offences impossible,

he is guilty of conspiracy to commit the offence or offences in question.]

[<sup>F2</sup>(1A) Subject to section 8 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 (relevance of external law), if this subsection applies to an agreement, this Part of this Act has effect in relation to it as it has effect in relation to an agreement falling within subsection (1) above.

(1B) Subsection (1A) above applies to an agreement if—

- (a) a party to it, or a party's agent, did anything in England and Wales in relation to it before its formation; or
- (b) a party to it became a party in England and Wales (by joining it either in person or through an agent); or
- (c) a party to it, or a party's agent, did or omitted anything in England and Wales in pursuance of it;

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

and the agreement would fall within subsection (1) above as an agreement relating to the commission of a computer misuse offence but for the fact that the offence would not be an offence triable in England and Wales if committed in accordance with the parties' intentions.]

- (2) Where liability for any offence may be incurred without knowledge on the part of the person committing it of any particular fact or circumstance necessary for the commission of the offence, a person shall nevertheless not be guilty of conspiracy to commit that offence by virtue of subsection (1) above unless he and at least one other party to the agreement intend or know that that fact or circumstance shall or will exist at the time when the conduct constituting the offence is to take place.

<sup>F3</sup>(3) . . . . .

- (4) In this Part of this Act “offence” means an offence triable in England and Wales, except that it includes murder notwithstanding that the murder in question would not be so triable if committed in accordance with the intentions of the parties to the agreement.

[<sup>F4</sup>(5) In the application of this Part of this Act to an agreement to which subsection (1A) above applies any reference to an offence shall be read as a reference to what would be the computer misuse offence in question but for the fact that it is not an offence triable in England and Wales.

- (6) In this section “computer misuse offence” means an offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1) substituted (with saving) by [Criminal Attempts Act 1981 \(c. 47, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 5(1)**  
**F2** S. 1(1A)(1B) inserted by [Computer Misuse Act 1990 \(c. 18, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 7(1)**  
**F3** S. 1(3) repealed (16.10.1992) by [Trade Union and Labour Relations \(Consolidation\) Act 1992 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 300(1), 302, [Sch.1](#) (with [Sch. 3 para. 2](#)).  
**F4** S. 1(5)(6) inserted by [Computer Misuse Act 1990 \(c. 18, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 7(2)**

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

- C2** S. 1(1) modified (16.10.1992) by [Trade Union and Labour Relations \(Consolidation\) Act 1992 \(c. 52\)](#), ss.242, 302.

### 1A <sup>F5</sup>Extended jurisdiction over certain conspiracies.

- (1) This Part of this Act has effect in relation to an agreement which falls within this section as it has effect in relation to one which falls within section 1(1) above.
- (2) An agreement falls within this section if—
- a party to it, or a party's agent, did anything in England and Wales in relation to it before its formation, or
  - a party to it became a party in England and Wales (by joining it either in person or through an agent), or
  - a party to it, or a party's agent, did or omitted anything in England and Wales in pursuance of it,

and the agreement would fall within section 1(1) above as an agreement relating to the commission of a Group A offence but for that offence, if committed in accordance with the parties' intentions, not being an offence triable in England and Wales.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (3) In subsection (2) above “Group A offence” has the same meaning as in Part I of the Criminal Justice Act 1993.
- (4) Subsection (1) above is subject to the provisions of section 6 of the Act of 1993 (relevance of external law).
- (5) An offence which is an offence of conspiracy, by virtue of this section, shall be treated for all purposes as an offence of conspiracy to commit the relevant Group A offence.

#### Textual Amendments

**F5** S. 1A inserted (prosp.) by 1993 c. 36, ss. 1(1), 5(1), 78(3) (which prosp insertion fell by reason of the repeal (4.9.1998) of s. 5(1) of the 1993 Act by 1998 c. 40, s. 9(2), Sch. 2 Pt. II (with s. 9(3))).

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

**C3** S. 1A restricted (prosp.) by 1993 c. 36, ss. 1(1), 6(1), 78(3)

## 2 [F6 Exemptions from liability for conspiracy.]

- (1) A person shall not by virtue of section 1 above be guilty of conspiracy to commit any offence if he is an intended victim of that offence.
- (2) A person shall not by virtue of section 1 above be guilty of conspiracy to commit any offence or offences if the only other person or persons with whom he agrees are (both initially and at all times during the currency of the agreement) persons of any one or more of the following descriptions, that is to say—
  - (a) his spouse;
  - (b) a person under the age of criminal responsibility; and
  - (c) an intended victim of that offence or of each of those offences.
- (3) A person is under the age of criminal responsibility for the purposes of subsection (2) (b) above so long as it is conclusively presumed, by virtue of section 50 of the <sup>M1</sup>Children and Young Persons Act 1933, that he cannot be guilty of any offence.

#### Textual Amendments

**F6** S. 1A inserted (4.9.1998) by 1998 c. 40, s. 5(1).

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1933 c. 12.

## 3 Penalties for conspiracy.

- (1) A person guilty by virtue of section 1 above of conspiracy to commit any offence or offences shall be liable on conviction on indictment—
  - (a) in a case falling within subsection (2) or (3) below, to imprisonment for a term related in accordance with that subsection to the gravity of the offence or offences in question (referred to below in this section as the relevant offence or offences); and
  - (b) in any other case, to a fine.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

Paragraph (b) above shall not be taken as prejudicing the application of section 30(1) of the <sup>M2</sup>Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 (general power of court to fine offender convicted on indictment) in a case falling within subsection (2) or (3) below.

- (2) Where the relevant offence or any of the relevant offences is an offence of any of the following descriptions, that is to say—
- (a) murder, or any other offence the sentence for which is fixed by law;
  - (b) an offence for which a sentence extending to imprisonment for life is provided; or
  - (c) an indictable offence punishable with imprisonment for which no maximum term of imprisonment is provided,

the person convicted shall be liable to imprisonment for life.

- (3) Where in a case other than one to which subsection (2) above applies the relevant offence or any of the relevant offences is punishable with imprisonment, the person convicted shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding the maximum term provided for that offence or (where more than one such offence is in question) for any one of those offences (taking the longer or the longest term as the limit for the purposes of this section where the terms provided differ).

In the case of an offence triable either way the references above in this subsection to the maximum term provided for that offence are references to the maximum term so provided on conviction on indictment.

#### Marginal Citations

M2 1973 c. 62.

## 4 Restrictions on the institution of proceedings for conspiracy.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below proceedings under section 1 above for conspiracy to commit any offence or offences shall not be instituted against any person except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions if the offence or (as the case may be) each of the offences in question is a summary offence.
- (2) In relation to the institution of proceedings under section 1 above for conspiracy to commit—
- (a) an offence which is subject to a prohibition by or under any enactment on the institution of proceedings otherwise than by, or on behalf or with the consent of, the Attorney General, or
  - (b) two or more offences of which at least one is subject to such a prohibition,
- subsection (1) above shall have effect with the substitution of a reference to the Attorney General for the reference to the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- (3) Any prohibition by or under any enactment on the institution of proceedings for any offence which is not a summary offence otherwise than by, or on behalf or with the consent of, the Director of Public Prosecutions or any other person shall apply also in relation to proceedings under section 1 above for conspiracy to commit that offence.
- (4) Where—
- (a) an offence has been committed in pursuance of any agreement; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

(b) proceedings may not be instituted for that offence because any time limit applicable to the institution of any such proceedings has expired, proceedings under section 1 above for conspiracy to commit that offence shall not be instituted against any person on the basis of that agreement.

## **5 Abolitions, savings, transitional provisions, consequential amendment and repeals.**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the offence of conspiracy at common law is hereby abolished.
- (2) Subsection (1) above shall not affect the offence of conspiracy at common law so far as relates to conspiracy to defraud, . . . <sup>F7</sup>.
- (3) Subsection (1) above shall not affect the offence of conspiracy at common law if and in so far as it may be committed by entering into an agreement to engage in conduct which—
  - (a) tends to corrupt public morals or outrages public decency; but
  - (b) would not amount to or involve the commission of an offence if carried out by a single person otherwise than in pursuance of an agreement.
- (4) Subsection (1) above shall not affect—
  - (a) any proceedings commenced before the time when this Part of this Act comes into force;
  - (b) any proceedings commenced after that time against a person charged with the same conspiracy as that charged in any proceedings commenced before that time; or
  - (c) any proceedings commenced after that time in respect of a trespass committed before that time;but a person convicted of conspiracy to trespass in any proceedings brought by virtue of paragraph (c) above shall not in respect of that conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term exceeding six months.
- (5) Sections 1 and 2 above shall apply to things done before as well as to things done after the time when this Part of this Act comes into force, but in the application of section 3 above to a case where the agreement in question was entered into before that time—
  - (a) subsection (2) shall be read without the reference to murder in paragraph (a); and
  - (b) any murder intended under the agreement shall be treated as an offence for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years is provided.
- (6) The rules laid down by sections 1 and 2 above shall apply for determining whether a person is guilty of an offence of conspiracy under any enactment other than section 1 above, but conduct which is an offence under any such other enactment shall not also be an offence under section 1 above.
- (7) Incitement . . . <sup>F8</sup> to commit the offence of conspiracy (whether the conspiracy incited . . . <sup>F8</sup> would be an offence at common law or under section 1 above or any other enactment) shall cease to be offences.
- (8) The fact that the person or persons who, so far as appears from the indictment on which any person has been convicted of conspiracy, were the only other parties to the agreement on which his conviction was based have been acquitted of conspiracy

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

by reference to that agreement (whether after being tried with the person convicted or separately) shall not be a ground for quashing his conviction unless under all the circumstances of the case his conviction is inconsistent with the acquittal of the other person or persons in question.

(9) Any rule of law or practice inconsistent with the provisions of subsection (8) above is hereby abolished.

<sup>X1</sup>(10) In section 4 of the <sup>M3</sup>Offences against the Person Act 1861—

- (a) the words preceding “Whosoever” shall cease to have effect; and
- (b) for the words from “be kept” to “years” there shall be substituted the words “imprisonment for life”.

<sup>F9</sup>(11) . . . . .

**Editorial Information**

**X1** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Textual Amendments**

- F7** Words repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1987 \(c. 38, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 12(2)**
- F8** Words repealed by [Criminal Attempts Act 1981 \(c. 38, SIF 39:1\)](#), **Sch. Pt. I**
- F9** [S. 5\(11\)](#) repealed (16.10.1992) by [Trade Union and Labour Relations \(Consolidation\) Act 1992 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 300(1), 302, **Sch.1** (with [Sch. 3 para. 2](#)).

**Marginal Citations**

**M3** 1861 c. 100.

**PART II**

OFFENCES RELATING TO ENTERING AND REMAINING ON PROPERTY

**6 Violence for securing entry.**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, any person who, without lawful authority, uses or threatens violence for the purpose of securing entry into any premises for himself or for any other person is guilty of an offence, provided that—
- (a) there is someone present on those premises at the time who is opposed to the entry which the violence is intended to secure; and
  - (b) the person using or threatening the violence knows that that is the case.

[<sup>F10</sup>(1A) Subsection (1) above does not apply to a person who is a displaced residential occupier or a protected intending occupier of the premises in question or who is acting on behalf of such an occupier; and if the accused adduces sufficient evidence that he was, or was acting on behalf of, such an occupier he shall be presumed to be, or to be acting on behalf of, such an occupier unless the contrary is proved by the prosecution.]

- (2) [<sup>F11</sup>Subject to subsection (1A) above,] the fact that a person has any interest in or right to possession or occupation of any premises shall not for the purposes of subsection (1)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

above constitute lawful authority for the use or threat of violence by him or anyone else for the purpose of securing his entry into those premises.

<sup>F12</sup>(3) . . . . .

- (4) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section—
- (a) whether the violence in question is directed against the person or against property; and
  - (b) whether the entry which the violence is intended to secure is for the purpose of acquiring possession of the premises in question or for any other purpose.
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F13</sup>level 5 on the standard scale] or to both.
- (6) A constable in uniform may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, guilty of an offence under this section.
- (7) Section 12 below contains provisions which apply for determining when any person is to be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a displaced residential occupier of any premises or of any access to any premises [<sup>F14</sup>and section 12A below contains provisions which apply for determining when any person is to be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a protected intending occupier of any premises or of any access to any premises.].

**Textual Amendments**

- F10** S. 6(1A) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 72(2); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1**.
- F11** Words in s. 6(2) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 72(3); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1**.
- F12** S. 6(3) omitted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 72(4) and repealed (*prosp.*) by 1994 c. 33, ss. 168(3), 172(2), **Sch.11**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1**.
- F13** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 46
- F14** Words in s. 6(7) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 72(5); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch.1**.

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

- C4** S. 6(6), 7(11), 8(4), 9(7), 10(5) saved by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60), s. 26, **Sch. 2**

<sup>F157</sup> **Adverse occupation of residential premises.**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section and to section 12A(9) below, any person who is on any premises as a trespasser after having entered as such is guilty of an offence if he fails to leave those premises on being required to do so by or on behalf of—
- (a) a displaced residential occupier of the premises; or
  - (b) an individual who is a protected intending occupier of the premises.
- (2) In any proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he believed that the person requiring him to leave the premises was not a displaced residential occupier or protected intending occupier of the premises or a person acting on behalf of a displaced residential occupier or protected intending occupier.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (3) In any proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence for the accused to prove—
- (a) that the premises in question are or form part of premises used mainly for non-residential purposes; and
  - (b) that he was not on any part of the premises used wholly or mainly for residential purposes.
- (4) Any reference in the preceding provisions of this section to any premises includes a reference to any access to them, whether or not any such access itself constitutes premises, within the meaning of this Part of this Act.
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.
- (6) A constable in uniform may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, guilty of an offence under this section.
- (7) Section 12 below contains provisions which apply for determining when any person is to be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a displaced residential occupier of any premises or of any access to any premises and section 12A below contains provisions which apply for determining when any person is to be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a protected intending occupier of any premises or of any access to any premises.

#### Textual Amendments

**F15** S. 7 substituted (3.5.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s.73; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), Sch.1.

## 8 Trespassing with a weapon of offence.]

- (1) A person who is on any premises as a trespasser, after having entered as such, is guilty of an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he has with him on the premises any weapon of offence.
- (2) In subsection (1) above “weapon of offence” means any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to or incapacitating a person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F16</sup>level 5 on the standard scale] or to both.
- (4) A constable in uniform may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, in the act of committing an offence under this section.

#### Textual Amendments

**F15** S. 7 substituted (3.5.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s.73; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), Sch.1.

**F16** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 46



*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

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

C5 S. 6(6), 7(11), 8(4), 9(7), 10(5) saved by the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(c. 60\), s. 26, Sch. 2](#)

**9 Trespassing on premises of foreign missions, etc.**

(1) Subject to subsection (3) below, a person who enters or is on any premises to which this section applies as a trespasser is guilty of an offence.

(2) This section applies to any premises which are or form part of—

(a) the premises of a diplomatic mission within the meaning of the definition in Article 1(i) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations signed in 1961 as that Article has effect in the United Kingdom by virtue of section 2 of and Schedule 1 to the <sup>M4</sup>Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964;

[<sup>F17</sup>(aa) the premises of a closed diplomatic mission;]

(b) consular premises within the meaning of the definition in paragraph 1(j) of Article 1 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations signed in 1963 as that Article has effect in the United Kingdom by virtue of section 1 of and Schedule 1 to the <sup>M5</sup>Consular Relations Act 1968;

[<sup>F18</sup>(bb) the premises of a closed consular post;]

(c) any other premises in respect of which any organisation or body is entitled to inviolability by or under any enactment; and

(d) any premises which are the private residence of a diplomatic agent (within the meaning of Article 1(e) of the Convention mentioned in paragraph (a) above) or of any other person who is entitled to inviolability of residence by or under any enactment.

[<sup>F19</sup>(2A) In subsection (2) above—

“the premises of a closed diplomatic mission” means premises which fall within Article 45 of the Convention mentioned in subsection (2)(a) above (as that Article has effect in the United Kingdom by virtue of the section and Schedule mentioned in that paragraph); and

“the premises of a closed consular post” means premises which fall within Article 27 of the Convention mentioned in subsection (2)(b) above (as that Article has effect in the United Kingdom by virtue of the section and Schedule mentioned in that paragraph);]

(3) In any proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he believed that the premises in question were not premises to which this section applies.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under this section a certificate issued by or under the authority of the Secretary of State stating that any premises were or formed part of premises of any description mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of subsection (2) above at the time of the alleged offence shall be conclusive evidence that the premises were or formed part of premises of that description at that time.

(5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F20</sup>level 5 on the standard scale] or to both.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (6) Proceedings for an offence under this section shall not be instituted against any person except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.
- (7) A constable in uniform may arrest without warrant any one who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, in the act of committing an offence under this section.

#### Textual Amendments

- F17** S. 9(2)(aa) inserted by Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 (c. 46, SIF 68:1), s. 7(1)(a)  
**F18** S. 9(2)(bb) inserted by Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 (c. 46, SIF 68:1), s. 7(1)(b)  
**F19** S. 9(2A) inserted by Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 (c. 46, SIF 68:1), s. 7(2)  
**F20** Words substituted by virtue of Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 46

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

- C6** S. 6(6), 7(11), 8(4), 9(7), 10(5) saved by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60), s. 26, Sch. 2

#### Marginal Citations

- M4** 1964 c. 81.  
**M5** 1968 c. 18.

## 10 Obstruction of court officers executing process for possession against unauthorised occupiers.

- (1) Without prejudice to section 8(2) of the <sup>M6</sup>Sheriffs Act 1887 but subject to the following provisions of this section, a person is guilty of an offence if he resists or intentionally obstructs any person who is in fact an officer of a court engaged in executing any process issued by the High Court or by any county court for the purpose of enforcing any judgment or order for the recovery of any premises or for the delivery of possession of any premises.
- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply unless the judgment or order in question was given or made in proceedings brought under any provisions of rules of court applicable only in circumstances where the person claiming possession of any premises alleges that the premises in question are occupied solely by a person or persons (not being a tenant or tenants holding over after the termination of the tenancy) who entered into or remained in occupation of the premises without the licence or consent of the person claiming possession or any predecessor in title of his.
- (3) In any proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that he believed that the person he was resisting or obstructing was not an officer of a court.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F21</sup>level 5 on the standard scale] or to both.
- (5) A constable in uniform or any officer of a court may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, guilty of an offence under this section.
- (6) In this section “officer of a court” means—
  - (a) any sheriff, under sheriff, deputy sheriff, bailiff or officer of a sheriff; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (b) any bailiff or other person who is an officer of a county court within the meaning of the <sup>M7</sup>County Courts Act 1959.

**Textual Amendments**

**F21** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 46

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

**C7** S. 6(6), 7(11), 8(4), 9(7), 10(5) saved by the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(c. 60\)](#), s. 26, [Sch. 2](#)

**Marginal Citations**

**M6** 1887 c. 55.

**M7** 1959 c. 22.

**F22** **11** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F22** S. 11 repealed by [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(c. 60, SIF 95\)](#), s. 119(2), [Sch. 7 Pt. I](#)

**12 Supplementary provisions.**

- (1) In this Part of this Act—
- (a) “premises” means any building, any part of a building under separate occupation, any land ancillary to a building, the site comprising any building or buildings together with any land ancillary thereto, and (for the purposes only of sections 10 and 11 above) any other place; and
  - (b) “access” means, in relation to any premises, any part of any site or building within which those premises are situated which constitutes an ordinary means of access to those premises (whether or not that is its sole or primary use).
- (2) References in this section to a building shall apply also to any structure other than a movable one, and to any movable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for use for residential purposes; and for the purposes of subsection (1) above—
- (a) part of a building is under separate occupation if anyone is in occupation or entitled to occupation of that part as distinct from the whole; and
  - (b) land is ancillary to a building if it is adjacent to it and used (or intended for use) in connection with the occupation of that building or any part of it.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4) below, any person who was occupying any premises as a residence immediately before being excluded from occupation by anyone who entered those premises, or any access to those premises, as a trespasser is a displaced residential occupier of the premises for the purposes of this Part of this Act so long as he continues to be excluded from occupation of the premises by the original trespasser or by any subsequent trespasser.
- (4) A person who was himself occupying the premises in question as a trespasser immediately before being excluded from occupation shall not by virtue of

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

subsection (3) above be a displaced residential occupier of the premises for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

- (5) A person who by virtue of subsection (3) above is a displaced residential occupier of any premises shall be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a displaced residential occupier also of any access to those premises.
- (6) Anyone who enters or is on or in occupation of any premises by virtue of—
- (a) any title derived from a trespasser; or
  - (b) any licence or consent given by a trespasser or by a person deriving title from a trespasser,
- shall himself be treated as a trespasser for the purposes of this Part of this Act (without prejudice to whether or not he would be a trespasser apart from this provision); and references in this Part of this Act to a person's entering or being on or occupying any premises as a trespasser shall be construed accordingly.
- (7) Anyone who is on any premises as a trespasser shall not cease to be a trespasser for the purposes of this Part of this Act by virtue of being allowed time to leave the premises, nor shall anyone cease to be a displaced residential occupier of any premises by virtue of any such allowance of time to a trespasser.
- (8) No rule of law ousting the jurisdiction of magistrates' courts to try offences where a dispute of title to property is involved shall preclude magistrates' courts from trying offences under this Part of this Act.

#### **12A Protected intending occupiers: supplementary provisions.**

- (1) For the purposes of this Part of this Act an individual is a protected intending occupier of any premises at any time if at that time he falls within subsection (2), (4) or (6) below.
- (2) An individual is a protected intending occupier of any premises if—
- (a) he has in those premises a freehold interest or a leasehold interest with not less than two years still to run;
  - (b) he requires the premises for his own occupation as a residence;
  - (c) he is excluded from occupation of the premises by a person who entered them, or any access to them, as a trespasser; and
  - (d) he or a person acting on his behalf holds a written statement—
    - (i) which specifies his interest in the premises;
    - (ii) which states that he requires the premises for occupation as a residence for himself; and
    - (iii) with respect to which the requirements in subsection (3) below are fulfilled.
- (3) The requirements referred to in subsection (2)(d)(iii) above are—
- (a) that the statement is signed by the person whose interest is specified in it in the presence of a justice of the peace or commissioner for oaths; and
  - (b) that the justice of the peace or commissioner for oaths has subscribed his name as a witness to the signature.
- (4) An individual is also a protected intending occupier of any premises if—
- (a) he has a tenancy of those premises (other than a tenancy falling within subsection (2)(a) above or (6)(a) below) or a licence to occupy those premises

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- granted by a person with a freehold interest or a leasehold interest with not less than two years still to run in the premises;
- (b) he requires the premises for his own occupation as a residence;
  - (c) he is excluded from occupation of the premises by a person who entered them, or any access to them, as a trespasser; and
  - (d) he or a person acting on his behalf holds a written statement—
    - (i) which states that he has been granted a tenancy of those premises or a licence to occupy those premises;
    - (ii) which specifies the interest in the premises of the person who granted that tenancy or licence to occupy (“the landlord”);
    - (iii) which states that he requires the premises for occupation as a residence for himself; and
    - (iv) with respect to which the requirements in subsection (5) below are fulfilled.
- (5) The requirements referred to in subsection (4)(d)(iv) above are—
- (a) that the statement is signed by the landlord and by the tenant or licensee in the presence of a justice of the peace or commissioner for oaths;
  - (b) that the justice of the peace or commissioner for oaths has subscribed his name as a witness to the signatures.
- (6) An individual is also a protected intending occupier of any premises if—
- (a) he has a tenancy of those premises (other than a tenancy falling within subsection (2)(a) or (4)(a) above) or a licence to occupy those premises granted by an authority to which this subsection applies;
  - (b) he requires the premises for his own occupation as a residence;
  - (c) he is excluded from occupation of the premises by a person who entered the premises, or any access to them, as a trespasser; and
  - (d) there has been issued to him by or on behalf of the authority referred to in paragraph (a) above a certificate stating that—
    - (i) he has been granted a tenancy of those premises or a licence to occupy those premises as a residence by the authority; and
    - (ii) the authority which granted that tenancy or licence to occupy is one to which this subsection applies, being of a description specified in the certificate.
- (7) Subsection (6) above applies to the following authorities—
- (a) any body mentioned in section 14 of the <sup>M8</sup>Rent Act 1977 (landlord’s interest belonging to local authority etc.);
  - (b) the Housing Corporation;
  - (c) Housing for Wales; and
  - (d) a registered housing association within the meaning of the <sup>M9</sup>Housing Associations Act 1985.
- (8) A person is guilty of an offence if he makes a statement for the purposes of subsection (2)(d) or (4)(d) above which he knows to be false in a material particular or if he recklessly makes such a statement which is false in a material particular.
- (9) In any proceedings for an offence under section 7 of this Act where the accused was requested to leave the premises by a person claiming to be or to act on behalf of a protected intending occupier of the premises—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (a) it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that, although asked to do so by the accused at the time the accused was requested to leave, that person failed at that time to produce to the accused such a statement as is referred to in subsection (2)(d) or (4)(d) above or such a certificate as is referred to in subsection (6)(d) above; and
  - (b) any document purporting to be a certificate under subsection (6)(d) above shall be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is proved, shall be deemed to have been issued by or on behalf of the authority stated in the certificate.
- (10) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (8) above shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.
- (11) A person who is a protected intending occupier of any premises shall be regarded for the purposes of this Part of this Act as a protected intending occupier also of any access to those premises.

#### Marginal Citations

- M8** 1977 c. 42.  
**M9** 1985 c. 69.

### 13 [F23 Abolitions and repeals.]

- (1) The offence of forcible entry and any offence of forcible detainer at common law are hereby abolished for all purposes not relating to offences committed before the coming into force of this Part of this Act.
- (2) The following enactments shall cease to have effect—
- (a) the <sup>M10</sup>Forcible Entry Act 1381;
  - (b) chapter 2 of 15 Ric. 2 (1391);
  - (c) the <sup>M11</sup>Forcible Entry Act 1429;
  - (d) the <sup>M12</sup>Forcible Entry Act 1588; and
  - (e) the <sup>M13</sup>Forcible Entry Act 1623.

#### Textual Amendments

- F23** S. 12A inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 74; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), Sch. 1.

#### Marginal Citations

- M10** 1381 c. 7.  
**M11** 1429 c. 9.  
**M12** 1588 c. 11.  
**M13** 1623 c. 15.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

### PART III

#### CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, PENALTIES, ETC.

14 ..... F24

##### Textual Amendments

F24 S. 14 repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 9

#### *Allocation of offences to classes as regards mode of trial*

#### 15 Offences which are to become triable only summarily.

(1) The following offences shall be triable only summarily (instead of either way), namely—

(a) the offences mentioned (and broadly described) in column 1 of Schedule 1 to this Act; . . . F25

(b) ..... F25

F26(2) .....

F26(3) .....

(4) The following offences under the M14 Night Poaching Act 1828 shall be triable only summarily (instead of only on indictment), namely—

(a) offences under section 2 of that Act (assaults by persons committing offences under the Act);

(b) offences under section 9 of that Act (entering land, with others, armed and for the purpose of taking or destroying game or rabbits).

(5) Subsections (1) and (4) above are without prejudice to any other enactment by virtue of which any offence is triable only summarily.

##### Textual Amendments

F25 Word “and” and s. 15(1)(b) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 9

F26 S. 15(2)(3) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. I Group 1

##### Marginal Citations

M14 1828 c. 69.

16 ..... F27

##### Textual Amendments

F27 Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), Sch. 9

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

<sup>F28</sup>17 .....

**Textual Amendments**  
**F28** S. 17 repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I** Group1

18— ..... <sup>F29</sup>  
26.

**Textual Amendments**  
**F29** Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**

*Penalties*

27 ..... <sup>F30</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F30** Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**

**28 Penalties on summary conviction for offences triable either way.**

(1) ..... <sup>F31</sup>

(8) Schedule 5 to this Act shall have effect for the purpose of altering the penalties available on summary conviction of certain offences triable either way not listed in [<sup>F32</sup>Schedule 1 to the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980]; . . . <sup>F33</sup>.

**Textual Amendments**  
**F31** Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**  
**F32** Words substituted by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 7 para. 149**  
**F33** Words repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**

29 ..... <sup>F34</sup>

**Textual Amendments**  
**F34** Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**

**30 Penalties (and mode of trial) for offences made triable only summarily.**

<sup>x2</sup>(1) The enactments specified in column 2 of Schedule 1 to this Act, which relate to the mode of trial of, and the maximum penalties for, the offences mentioned (and broadly



*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

described) in column 1 of that Schedule (being the offences which by section 15(1)(a) above made triable only summarily instead of either way) shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in column 3 of that Schedule.

<sup>X2</sup>(2) The said amendments have the effect of altering the maximum penalties available on summary conviction of the offences so mentioned as well as making alterations consequential on their becoming triable only summarily; and in that Schedule column 4 shows the present maximum penalties by way of fine or imprisonment on summary conviction and on conviction on indictment, and column 5 shows the new maximum penalties resulting from the amendments.

(3) A person who (by virtue of section 15 above) is summarily convicted of an offence under section 2 (assaults by persons committing offences under the Act) or section 9 (entering land, with others, armed and for the purpose of taking or destroying game or rabbits) of the <sup>M15</sup>Night Poaching Act 1828 shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding £500, or to both (instead of to a maximum penalty on conviction on indictment of seven years imprisonment or a fine or both for an offence under the said section 2, or of fourteen years imprisonment or a fine or both for an offence under the said section 9).

(4) ..... <sup>F35</sup>

**Editorial Information**

**X2** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Textual Amendments**

**F35** Ss. 16, 18–27, 28(1)–(7), 29, 30(4) repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), **Sch. 9**

**Marginal Citations**

**M15** 1828 c. 69.

**31 Increase of fines for certain summary offences.**

(1) The enactments specified in column 2 of Schedule 6 to this Act, which relate to the maximum fines for the offences mentioned (and broadly described) in column 1 of that Schedule, shall have effect as if the maximum fine that may be imposed on summary conviction of any offence so mentioned were a fine not exceeding the amount specified in column 4 of that Schedule instead of a fine not exceeding the amount specified in column 3 of that Schedule, so however that the preceding provision shall not alter the maximum daily fine, if any, provided for by any of those enactments.

(2) This subsection applies to the following enactments (by virtue of which certain byelaws may make persons contravening the byelaws liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20), namely—

(a) section 183 of the <sup>M16</sup>Public Health Act 1875 and section 237 of the <sup>M17</sup>Local Government Act 1972 (local authorities' byelaws) in their application to byelaws under any public general Act; and

(b) ..... <sup>F36</sup>

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

(3) In the enactments to which subsection (2) above applies for any reference to £20 there shall be substituted a reference to £50; and any provision in force at the coming into force of this subsection which—

- (a) is contained in any byelaw made under a public general Act by virtue of—
  - (i) any enactment to which subsection (2) above applies; or
  - (ii) section 251 of the <sup>M18</sup>Local Government Act 1933; and
- (b) specifies £20 as the maximum fine which may be imposed on summary conviction in respect of a contravention of, or offence under, any byelaw mentioned in that provision,

shall have effect as if it specified £50 instead (but with no change by virtue of this subsection in the maximum daily fine, if any, for which it provides).

The preceding provisions of this subsection are without prejudice to subsection (4) below.

(4) The following byelaws, namely—

- (a) byelaws under section 75 of the <sup>M19</sup>Public Health Act 1961 (byelaws as to pleasure fairs and roller skating rinks);
- (b) byelaws under section 76 of that Act (byelaws as to seaside pleasure boats); . . .  
F37
- (c) . . . . . F37

may provide that persons contravening the byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F38</sup>level 3 on the standard scale] and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding £5 for each day during which the offence continues after the conviction thereof; and any such byelaw in force at the coming into force of this subsection which specifies £20 or any smaller sum as the maximum fine which may be imposed on summary conviction of an offence under any such byelaw shall have effect as if it specified [<sup>F38</sup>level 3 on the standard scale], instead (but with no change by virtue of this subsection in the maximum daily fine, if any, for which it provides).

(5) This subsection applies to any pre-1949 enactment (however framed or worded) which—

- (a) as regards any summary offence makes a person liable on conviction thereof to a fine of, or not exceeding, a specified amount less than £50 which has not been altered since the end of 1948 (and is not altered by this Act); or
- (b) confers power by subordinate instrument to make a person, as regards any summary offence (whether or not created by the instrument), liable on conviction thereof to a fine of, or not exceeding, a specified amount less than £50 which has not been altered since the end of 1948 (and is not altered by this Act).

(6) Every enactment to which subsection (5) above applies shall have effect as if for the specified amount less than £50 there mentioned there were substituted—

- (a) £25 if the specified amount is less than £20; or
- (b) £50 if the specified amount is not less than £20.

(7) . . . . . F39

(8) Subsection (6) above shall not affect so much of any enactment as (in whatever words) makes a person liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding a specified

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

amount for each day on which a continuing offence is continued after conviction or the occurrence of any other specified event.

(9) In subsection (5) above “pre-1949 enactment” means an enactment passed before 1st January 1949 or an enactment passed on or after that date which (whether directly or, through successive re-enactments, indirectly) re-enacts with or without modification an enactment passed before that date.

<sup>X3</sup>(10) In section 67(6) of the <sup>M20</sup>Medicines Act 1968, for “£400” (which gives the maximum fine on summary conviction which can be imposed by regulations under section 66 for contravention of the regulations) there shall be substituted “£1,000”.

(11) In this section “enactment” does not include an enactment contained in an order, regulation or other instrument made under an Act.

#### Editorial Information

**X3** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Textual Amendments

**F36** S. 31(2)(b) repealed by [Weights and Measures Act 1985 \(c. 72, SIF 131\)](#), s. 98(1), Sch. 11 para. 21(2), [Sch. 13](#)

**F37** Word “and” and s. 31(4)(c) repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)

**F38** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 46](#)

**F39** S. 31(7) repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)

#### Marginal Citations

**M16** 1875 c. 55.

**M17** 1972 c. 70.

**M18** 1933 c. 51.

**M19** 1961 c. 64.

**M20** 1968 c.67.

## 32 Other provisions as to maximum fines.

(1) Where a person convicted on indictment of any offence (whether triable only on indictment or either way) would, apart from this subsection, be liable to a fine not exceeding a specified amount, he shall by virtue of this subsection be liable to a fine of any amount.

(2) . . . . . <sup>F40</sup>

<sup>X4</sup>(3) In paragraph 1(1)(d) of Schedule 2 to the <sup>M21</sup>European Communities Act 1972, for the words “£5 a day” (which give the maximum daily fine with which an offence created under the powers conferred by section 2(2) of that Act can under those powers be made punishable on summary conviction) there shall be substituted the words “£100 a day”.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

**Editorial Information**

**X4** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Textual Amendments**

**F40** Ss. 32(2), 34, 35, 36(2)–(8) repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)

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

**C8** S. 32(1) extended (N.I.) by [Finance Act 1983 \(c. 28, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 1\(1\)](#)

**C9** S. 32(1) excluded by [Criminal Attempts Act 1981 \(c. 47, SIF 82\)](#), [s. 4\(5\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)

**Marginal Citations**

**M21** 1972 c. 68

**33 Penalty for offences under section 3 of Explosive Substances Act 1883.**

For an offence under section 3 of the <sup>M22</sup>Explosive Substances Act 1883 (attempt to cause explosion, or making or keeping explosive, with intent to endanger life or property in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland) the maximum term of imprisonment which may be imposed by a court in Great Britain shall be increased from twenty years to life.

**Marginal Citations**

**M22** 1883 c. 3.

*Young offenders*

**34, 35.** ..... **F41**

**Textual Amendments**

**F41** Ss. 32(2), 34, 35, 36(2)–(8) repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)

**36 Enforcement of fines imposed on young offenders.**

(1) ..... **F42**

(2) ..... **F43**

(9) In this section—  
..... **F44**  
..... **F45**

“sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction” means any fine, costs, compensation or other sum adjudged to be paid by an order made on a finding of guilt, including an order made under section 35 of the <sup>M23</sup>Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

(compensation orders) as applied by section 3(6) of the <sup>M24</sup>Children and Young Persons Act 1969.

#### Textual Amendments

- F42** S. 36(1) repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)
- F43** Ss. 32(2), 34, 35, 36(2)–(8) repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)
- F44** Definition repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)
- F45** Definition repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#), [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M23** 1973 c. 62.
- M24** 1969 c. 54.

### 37 Supervision orders. <sup>X5</sup>

- (1) ..... <sup>F46</sup>
- (2) In section 15 of the <sup>M25</sup>Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (variation and discharge of supervision orders), after subsection (2) there shall be inserted the following subsection—
- “(2A) If while a supervision order to which section 12(3A) of this Act applies is in force in respect of a person who has not attained the age of eighteen it is proved to the satisfaction of a juvenile court, on the application of the supervisor, that the supervised person has failed to comply with any requirement included in the supervision order in pursuance of section 12 or section 18(2)(b) of this Act, the court may, whether or not it also makes an order under subsection (1) of this section—
- (a) order him to pay an amount not exceeding £50; or
- (b) subject to section 16(10) of this Act, make an attendance centre order in respect of him.”.
- (3) The preceding provisions of this section, and any related amendment or repeal provided for in Schedule 12 or 13 to this Act, shall not apply in relation to supervision orders made before the coming into force of those provisions.

#### Editorial Information

- X5** The text of ss. 15(3), 37, 44, 53, 58, Schs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Textual Amendments

- F46** S. 37(1) repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 16](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M25** 1969 c. 54.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

### *Cross-border enforcement*

<sup>F47</sup>38 .....

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F47** S. 38 repealed (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(3), **Sch.11**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** AppendixC.

#### **38A Execution in different parts of United Kingdom of warrants for imprisonment for non-payment of fine.**

- (1) Subject to subsection (6) below, a person against whom an extract conviction is issued in Scotland for imprisonment in default of payment of a fine may be arrested—
  - (a) in England and Wales, by any constable acting within his police area;
  - (b) in Northern Ireland, by any member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve;
 and subsections (4) and (5) of section 159 of the Magistrates' Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 (execution without possession of the warrant and execution on Sunday) shall apply to the execution in Northern Ireland of any such extract conviction as those subsections apply in relation to the execution of a warrant for arrest.
- (2) Subject to subsection (6) below, a person against whom there has been issued in England, Wales or Northern Ireland a warrant committing him to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction may be arrested in Scotland, by any constable appointed for a police area, in like manner as if the warrant were an extract conviction for imprisonment issued in Scotland in default of payment of a fine.
- (3) A person arrested by virtue of subsection (1) above under an extract conviction or by virtue of subsection (2) above under a warrant of commitment may be detained under it in any prison in the part of the United Kingdom in which he was arrested; and while so detained he shall be treated for all purposes as if he were detained under a warrant of commitment or extract conviction issued in that part of the United Kingdom.
- (4) An extract conviction or a warrant of commitment may be executed by virtue of this section whether or not it has been endorsed under section 4 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Process) Act 1881 or under section 27 of the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851.
- (5) In this section—
 

“fine” includes any sum treated by any enactment as a fine for the purposes of its enforcement and any sum to be found as caution;

“imprisonment” includes, in the case of a person who is under the age of 21 years, detention;

“part of the United Kingdom” means England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland;

“prison” means—

  - (i) in the case of a person who is under the age of 21 years arrested in Scotland, a young offenders institution; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (ia) [<sup>F48</sup>in the case of a person under that age arrested in England and Wales, any place in which he could be detained under section 12(10) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982;]
- (ii) in the case of a person under that age arrested in Northern Ireland, a young offenders centre; and
- “sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction” has the meaning given by section 150(3) of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 or, in Northern Ireland, section 169(2) of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Act 1964.

(6) This section shall not apply to the arrest of persons under [<sup>F49</sup>the age of 18 years].

#### Textual Amendments

- F48** S. 38A(5)(ia) inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [Sch. 14 para. 39](#)
- F49** Words in s. 38A(6) substituted (3.5.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 168\(1\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 14\(1\)](#); [S.I. 1995/127, art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 AppendixA](#).

### **38B Further provision for execution of warrants of commitment for non-payment of sum adjudged to be paid by conviction in England and Wales or Northern Ireland.**

- (1) Subject to subsection (6) below, a person against whom there has been issued in England and Wales a warrant committing him to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction may be arrested in Northern Ireland by any member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve in like manner as if the warrant were a warrant committing him to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction in Northern Ireland; and article 158(4) and (5) of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (execution without possession of the warrant and execution on Sunday) shall apply to the execution in Northern Ireland of any such warrant which has been issued in England and Wales as they apply in relation to the execution of a warrant for arrest.
- (2) Subject to subsection (6) below, a person against whom there has been issued in Northern Ireland a warrant committing him to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction may be arrested in England and Wales by any constable acting within his police area in like manner as if the warrant were a warrant committing him to prison in default of payment of a sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction in England and Wales.
- (3) A person arrested by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) above under a warrant of commitment may be detained under it in any prison in the part of the United Kingdom in which he was arrested; and while so detained he shall be treated for all purposes as if he were detained under a warrant of commitment issued in that part of the United Kingdom.
- (4) A warrant of commitment issued by a court in Northern Ireland may be executed in England and Wales by virtue of this section whether or not it has been endorsed under section 27 of the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851.
- (5) In this section
- “part of the United Kingdom” means England and Wales or Northern Ireland;
- “prison” means—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (a) in the case of a person who is under the age of 21 years arrested in England and Wales, any place in which he could be detained under section 12(10) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982; and
- (b) in the case of a person under that age arrested in Northern Ireland, a young offenders centre; and
- “sum adjudged to be paid by a conviction” has the meaning given by section 150(3) of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 or, in Northern Ireland, Article 2(5) of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

(6) This section shall not apply to the arrest of persons under [<sup>F50</sup>the age of 18 years].

#### Textual Amendments

**F50** Words in s. 38B(6) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 14(2)**; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1** AppendixA.

#### [<sup>F51</sup> Service of summonses and citation throughout United Kingdom.

- [<sup>F52</sup> (1) A summons requiring a person charged with an offence to appear before a court in  
<sup>F53</sup> England or Wales may, in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of court, be  
<sup>F54</sup> served on him in Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- (2) A summons requiring a person charged with an offence to appear before a court in Northern Ireland may, in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of court, be served on him in England, Wales or Scotland.
- (3) Citation of a person charged with a crime or offence to appear before a court in Scotland may be effected in any other part of the United Kingdom in like manner as it may be done in Scotland, and for this purpose the persons authorised to effect such citation shall include
- [<sup>F55</sup>(a) ] , in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, constables and prison officers serving in those parts of the United Kingdom
- [<sup>F56</sup>(b) ] persons authorised by a chief officer of police in England or Wales to serve summonses there.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F51** S. 38A inserted by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 62), s. 51

**F52** S. 38A inserted by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 62), s. 51

**F53** S. 38B inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 52

**F54** S. 38B inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c. 48, SIF 39:1), s. 52

**F55** “(a)” inserted by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 62), **Sch. 7 para. 79(a)**

**F56** S. 39(3)(b) added by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (c. 62, SIF 39:1), **Sch. 7 para. 79(b)**

#### 40 Transfer of fine orders.

Schedule 7 to this Act (which confers powers on courts in Northern Ireland, and extends the existing powers of courts in England, Wales and Scotland, to make transfer of fine orders) shall have effect.]]]]



*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

**Textual Amendments**

- F51 S. 38A inserted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(c. 62\), s. 51](#)
- F52 S. 38A inserted by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(c. 62\), s. 51](#)
- F53 S. 38B inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\), s. 52](#)
- F54 S. 38B inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\), s. 52](#)

*Other provisions*

**41, 42.** ..... F57

**Textual Amendments**

- F57 Ss. 41, 42, 45 repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\), Sch. 9](#)

**43** ..... F58

**Textual Amendments**

- F58 S. 43 repealed by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1\), s. 170, Sch. 8 para. 16, Sch. 16](#)

<sup>F59</sup>**44** .....

**Textual Amendments**

- F59 S. 44 repealed (1.1.1996) by [1995 c. 35, s. 29\(2\), Sch.3; S.I. 1995/3061, art. 3\(i\)\(iii\)](#).

**45** ..... F60

**Textual Amendments**

- F60 S. 39(3)(b) added by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(c. 62, SIF 39:1\), Sch. 7 para. 79\(b\)](#)

**46** **Committal for sentence for offences tried summarily.** <sup>X6</sup>

For section 56(1) of the <sup>M26</sup>Criminal Justice Act 1967 (powers of magistrates' courts as regards committal for sentence in respect of offences tried summarily) there shall be substituted—

“(1) Where a magistrates' court (“the committing court”) commits a person in custody or on bail to the Crown Court under any enactment to which this section applies to be sentenced or otherwise dealt with in respect of an offence (“the relevant offence”), the committing court—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (a) if the relevant offence is an offence triable either way, may also commit him, in custody or on bail as the case may require, to the Crown Court to be dealt with in respect of any other offence whatsoever in respect of which the committing court has power to deal with him (being an offence of which he has been convicted by that or any other court); or
- (b) if the relevant offence is a summary offence, may commit him, as aforesaid, to the Crown Court, to be dealt with in respect of—
  - (i) any other offence which the committing court has convicted him, being either an offence punishable with imprisonment or an offence in respect of which the committing court has a power or duty to order him to be disqualified under section 93 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 (disqualification for certain motoring offences); or
  - (ii) any suspended sentence in respect of which the the committing court has under section 24(1) of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 1973 power to deal with him.”

#### Editorial Information

**X6** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Marginal Citations

**M26** 1967 c. 80.

<sup>F61</sup>47 .....

#### Textual Amendments

**F61** S. 47 repealed (1.10.1992) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991 \(c. 53, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 5\(2\), 101\(2\)](#), Sch. 13 (with ss. 28, 101(1), Sch. 12 para. 1); [S.I. 1992/333, art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch.2](#).

#### 48 Power to make rules as to furnishing of information by prosecutor in criminal proceedings.

- (1) The power to make rules conferred by [<sup>F62</sup>section 144 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980] shall, without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of that section, include power to make, with respect to proceedings against any person for a prescribed offence or an offence of any prescribed class, provision—
- (a) for requiring the prosecutor to do such things as may be prescribed for the purpose of securing that the accused or a person representing him is furnished with, or can obtain, advance information concerning all, or any prescribed class of, the facts and matters of which the prosecutor proposes to adduce evidence; and
  - (b) for requiring a magistrates’ court, if satisfied that any requirement imposed by virtue of paragraph (a) above has not been complied with, to adjourn the proceedings pending compliance with that requirement unless the court is

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

satisfied that the conduct of the case for the accused will not be substantially prejudiced by non-compliance with the requirement.

- (2) Rules made by virtue of subsection (1)(a) above—
- (a) may require the prosecutor to do as provided in the rules either—
    - (i) in all cases; or
    - (ii) only if so requested by or on behalf of the accused;
  - (b) may exempt facts and matters of any prescribed description from any requirement imposed by the rules, and may make the opinion of the prosecutor material for the purposes of any such exemption; and
  - (c) may make different provision with respect to different offences or offences of different classes.
- (3) It shall not open to person convicted of an offence to appeal against the conviction on the ground that a requirement imposed by virtue of subsection (1) above was not complied with by the prosecutor.

#### Textual Amendments

**F62** Words substituted by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 151](#)

#### 49 Power to order search of persons before Crown Court. <sup>x7</sup>

After section 34 of the <sup>M27</sup>Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 there shall be inserted—

##### “34A Power of Crown Court to order search of persons before it.

- (1) Where—
- (a) the Crown Court imposes a fine on a person or forfeits his recognizance;
  - (b) the Crown Court makes against a person any such order as is mentioned in paragraphs 3, 4 or 9 of Schedule 9 to the Administration of Justice Act 1970 (orders for the payment of costs);
  - (c) the Crown Court makes against a person any such order as is mentioned in paragraph 12 of that Schedule (fines etc. payable by parents or guardians) other than an order under section 35 of this Act; or
  - (d) on determination of an appeal brought by a person under section 83 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1952 a sum is payable by him, whether by virtue of an order of the Crown Court or by virtue of a conviction or order of the magistrates' court against whose decision the appeal was brought,
- then, if that person is before it, the Crown Court may order him to be searched.
- (2) Any money found on a person in a search under this section may be applied, unless the court otherwise directs, towards payment of the fine or other sum payable by him; and the balance, if any, shall be returned to him.”

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

#### Editorial Information

**X7** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Marginal Citations

**M27** 1973 c. 62

## PART IV

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**50** ..... <sup>F63</sup>

#### Textual Amendments

**F63** S. 50 repealed by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54\)](#), s. 3, [Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

#### **51 Bomb hoaxes.**

- (1) A person who—
- (a) places any article in any place whatever; or
  - (b) dispatches any article by post, rail or any other means whatever of sending things from one place to another,
- with the intention (in either case) of inducing in some other person a belief that it is likely to explode or ignite and thereby cause personal injury or damage to property is guilty of an offence.
- In this subsection “article” includes substance.
- (2) A person who communicates any information which he knows or believes to be false to another person with the intention of inducing in him or any other person a false belief that a bomb or other thing liable to explode or ignite is present in any place or location whatever is guilty of an offence.
- (3) For a person to be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) above it is not necessary for him to have any particular person in mind as the person in whom he intends to induce the belief mentioned in that subsection.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F64</sup>six months] or to a fine not exceeding £1,000, or both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F64</sup>seven years].

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

#### Textual Amendments

**F64** Words in s. 51(4)(a)(b) substituted (31. 10. 1991) (with saving E.W.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 26(4), (with ss. 28, 101(1), Sch. 12 para. 7); S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(4), [Sch.3](#).

### 52 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: redefinition of cannabis. <sup>X8</sup>

In section 37(1) (interpretation) of the <sup>M28</sup>Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, for the definition of “cannabis” there shall be substituted—

““cannabis” (except in the expression “cannabis resin”) means any plant of the genus *Cannabis* or any part of any such plant (by whatever name designated) except that it does not include cannabis resin or any of the following products after separation from the rest of the plant, namely—

- (a) mature stalk of any such plant,
- (b) fibre produced from mature stalk of any such plant, and
- (c) seed of any such plant;”.

#### Editorial Information

**X8** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Marginal Citations

**M28** [1971 c. 38](#).

### 53 Amendments of Obscene Publications Act 1959 with respect to cinematograph exhibitions. <sup>X9</sup>

(1) In the proviso to section 1(3) of the <sup>M29</sup>Obscene Publications Act 1959 (which excludes from the scope of that Act anything done in the course of a cinematograph exhibition taking place otherwise than in a private house to which the public are not admitted and anything done in the course of television or sound broadcasting) the words from “a cinematograph exhibition” to “in the course of” shall be omitted.

(2) In section 2 of that Act (prohibition of publication of obscene matter) at the end of subsection (3) there shall be inserted the following subsection:—

“(3A) Proceedings for an offence under this section shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions in any case where the article in question is a moving picture film of a width of not less than sixteen millimetres and the relevant publication or the only other publication which followed or could reasonably have been expected to follow from the relevant publication took place or (as the case may be) was to take place in the course of a cinematograph exhibition; and in this subsection “the relevant publication” means—

- (a) in the case of any proceedings under this section for publishing an obscene article, the publication in respect of which the defendant would be charged if the proceedings were brought; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (b) in the case of any proceedings under this section for having an obscene article for publication for gain, the publication which, if the proceedings were brought, the defendant would be alleged to have had in contemplation.”
- (3) In section 2 of that Act after subsection (4) there shall be inserted the following subsection:—
- “(4A) Without prejudice to subsection (4) above, a person shall not be proceeded against for an offence at common law—
- (a) in respect of a cinematograph exhibition or anything said or done in the course of a cinematograph exhibition, where it is of the essence of the common law offence that the exhibition or, as the case may be, what was said or done was obscene, indecent, offensive, disgusting or injurious to morality; or
- (b) in respect of an agreement to give a cinematograph exhibition or to cause anything to be said or done in the course of such an exhibition where the common law offence consists of conspiring to corrupt public morals or to do any act contrary to public morals or decency.”
- (4) ..... F65
- (5) In section 3 of that Act (which among other things makes provision for the forfeiture of obscene articles kept for publication for gain) at the beginning of subsection (3) there shall be inserted the words “Subject to subsection (3A) of this section” and at the end of that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection:—
- “(3A) Without prejudice to the duty of a court to make an order for the forfeiture of an article where section 1(4) of the Obscene Publications Act 1964 applies (orders made on conviction), in a case where by virtue of subsection (3A) of section 2 of this Act proceedings under the said section 2 for having an article for publication for gain could not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, no order for the forfeiture of the article shall be made under this section unless the warrant under which the article was seized was issued on an information laid by or on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions.”
- (6) In section 4 of that Act (defence of public good) at the beginning of subsection (1) there shall be inserted the words “Subject to subsection (1A) of this section” and at the end of that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection:—
- “(1A) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply where the article in question is a moving picture film or soundtrack, but—
- (a) a person shall not be convicted of an offence against section 2 of this Act in relation to any such film or soundtrack, and
- (b) an order for forfeiture of any such film or soundtrack shall not be made under section 3 of this Act,
- if it is proved that publication of the film or soundtrack is justified as being for the public good on the ground that it is in the interests of drama, opera, ballet or any other art, or of literature or learning.”
- (7) At the end of section 4 of that Act there shall be added the following subsection:—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

“(3) In this section “moving picture soundtrack” means any sound record designed for playing with a moving picture film, whether incorporated with the film or not.”

**Editorial Information**

**X9** The text of ss. 15(3), 37, 44, 53, 58, Schs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Textual Amendments**

**F65** S. 53(4) repealed by Cinemas Act 1985 (c. 13 SIF 45A), s. 24(2), Sch. 3

**Marginal Citations**

**M29** 1959 c. 66.

**54 Inciting girl under sixteen to have incestuous sexual intercourse.**

- (1) It is an offence for a man to incite to have sexual intercourse with him a girl under the age of sixteen whom he knows to be his grand-daughter, daughter or sister.
- (2) In the preceding subsection “man” includes boy, “sister” includes half-sister, and for the purposes of that subsection any expression importing a relationship between two people shall be taken to apply notwithstanding that the relationship is not traced through lawful wedlock.
- (3) The following provisions of section 1 of the <sup>M30</sup>Indecency with Children Act 1960, namely—

..... <sup>F66</sup> .....

subsection (3) (references in <sup>M31</sup>Children and Young Persons Act 1933 to the offences mentioned in Schedule 1 to that Act to include offences under that section);  
subsection (4) (offences under that section to be deemed offences against the person for the purpose of section 3 of the <sup>M32</sup>Visiting Forces Act 1952),  
shall apply in relation to offences under this section.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding £1,000, or both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

**Textual Amendments**

**F66** Words repealed by Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60 SIF 95), s. 119(2), Sch. 7 Pt. V

**Marginal Citations**

**M30** 1960 c. 33.  
**M31** 1933 c. 12.  
**M32** 1952 c. 67.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- 55 (1) ..... F67  
(4) ..... F68

#### Textual Amendments

- F67 S. 55(1)–(3) repealed by Animal Health Act 1981 (c. 22 SIF 4:4), s. 96(2), sch. 6  
F68 S. 55(4)–(6) repealed (N.I.) by S.I. 1981/1115, (N.I. 22). Sch. 7

- 56 ..... F69

#### Textual Amendments

- F69 S. 56 repealed by Coroners Act 1988 (c. 13), s. 36(2), Sch. 4

### 57 Probation and conditional discharge: power to vary statutory minimum or maximum period.<sup>X10</sup>

- (1) In section 2 of the <sup>M33</sup>Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 1973 (probation) there shall be added after subsection (8) the following subsections—

“(9) The Secretary of State may by order direct that subsection (1) above shall be amended by substituting, for the minimum or maximum period specified in that subsection as originally enacted or as previously amended under this subsection, such period as may be specified in the order.

(10) An order under subsection (9) above may make in paragraph 3(2)(a) of Schedule 1 to this Act any amendment which the Secretary of State thinks necessary in consequence of any substitution made by the order.”.

- (2) In section 7 of the said Act of 1973 (absolute and conditional discharge) there shall be added after subsection (4) the following subsection—

“(5) The Secretary of State may by order direct that subsection (1) above shall be amended by substituting, for the maximum period specified in that subsection as originally enacted or as previously amended under this subsection, such period as may be specified in the order.”.

- (3) In subsection (3) and (4) of section 54 of the said Act of 1973 (which require certain orders under that Act to be approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, and provide for their revocation), before the word “14”, wherever it occurs, there shall be inserted the words “2 or 7 or”.

#### Editorial Information

- X10 The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.



*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

**Marginal Citations**

M33 1973 c. 62

**58 Proceedings involving persons under 17: increase of certain pecuniary limits.** <sup>X11</sup>

- (1) ..... <sup>F70</sup>
- (2) In section 2(13) of the <sup>M34</sup>Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (by virtue of which the maximum amount for which the parent or guardian of a child or young person can be required by an order under section 1 of that Act to enter into a recognisance to take proper care of and exercise proper control over him is £50), for the words “fifty pounds” there shall be substituted the words “£200”.
- <sup>F71</sup>(3) .....
- (4) ..... <sup>F70</sup>
- (5) In section 15(4) of the said Act of 1969 (powers of a magistrates’ court other than a juvenile court in respect of failure by the supervised person to comply with certain requirements of a supervision order, if that person has attained the age of eighteen)—
- (a) in paragraph (a) (under which, if the court does not discharge the supervision order, the maximum fine which it can impose on the supervised person is £20), for the words “twenty pounds” there shall be substituted the words “£50”; and
  - (b) for the words “four hundred pounds” (which specify the maximum fine which the court can impose if it discharges the supervision order in a case where the offence in consequence of which the order was made is of a kind which the court has no power to try or has no power to try without appropriate consents) there shall be substituted the words “£1,000”.
- (6) ..... <sup>F70</sup>

**Editorial Information**

**X11** The text of ss. 15(3), 37, 44, 53, 58, Schs. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Textual Amendments**

**F70** S. 58(1)(4)(6) repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), **Sch. 9**

**F71** S. 58(3) repealed (14.10.1991) by Children Act 1989 (c. 41, SIF 20), **s. 108(7) Sch. 15**; S.I. 1991/828, **art. 3(2)**

**Marginal Citations**

M34 1969 c. 54.

59— ..... <sup>F72</sup>  
61.

**Textual Amendments**

**F72** Ss. 59–61 repealed by Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43, SIF 82), s. 154, **Sch. 9**

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

62 ..... F73

#### Textual Amendments

F73 S. 62 repealed by Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c. 60 SIF 82), s. 119(2), Sch. 7 Pt. I

## PART V

### PROVISIONS APPLYING TO SCOTLAND

#### 63 Provisions applying to Scotland.

<sup>X12</sup>(1) The <sup>M35</sup>Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in Schedule 11 to this Act.

(2) The following provisions of this Act shall have effect in relation to Scotland, namely—

section 15(2) to (4).

section 30(3);

section 31(10);

section 32(3);

section 33;

sections 38 to 40 and Schedule 7;

sections 50 to 52;

Sections 55(1) to (3);

section 65(1), (3) and (6) to (10) and Schedule 14;

section 65(4) and Schedule 12 so far as they relate to—

Night Poaching Act 1828,

Public Stores Act 1875,

Explosive Substances Act 1833,

Prison Act 1952 (in its application to persons for the time being in Scotland),

Adoption Act 1958,

sections 26, 28, 29 and 39(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1961,

Housing (Scotland) Act 1966,

Road Traffic Regulations Act 1967,

sections . . . <sup>F74</sup> 60 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 and (in its application to persons for the time being in Scotland) section 63 of that Act,

<sup>F75</sup>

Gaming Act 1968,

section 179 of the Road Traffic Act 1972,

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974,

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974;

section 65(5) and Schedule 13 so far as they relate to—

Night Poaching Act 1828,

Truck Act 1831,

Public Stores Act 1875,

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

section <sup>F76</sup> . . . 9 or 19 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875,  
Cruelty to Animals Act 1876,  
Truck Amendment Act 1887,  
Witnesses (Public Inquiries) Protection Act 1892,  
section 283 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952,  
Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954,  
sections 26 and 28 of the Criminal Justice Act 1961,  
Penalties for Drunkenness Act 1962,  
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1963,  
sections 43(2) and 80 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967,  
sections 60, 92(8) and 106(2)(f) of and, in relation to enactments mentioned  
therein which extend to Scotland, Part I of Schedule 3 to the Criminal  
Justice Act 1967,  
Firearms Act 1968,  
Transport Act 1968,  
section 59(5)(e) of and paragraph 48(a) of Schedule 8 to the Courts Act  
1971,  
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971,  
Road Traffic Act 1972,  
section 58(a) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973,  
Road Traffic Act 1974,  
District Courts (Scotland) Act 1975,  
Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975,  
Protection of Birds (Amendment Act) 1976;  
Schedule 9, paragraph 3(3).

#### Editorial Information

**X12** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Textual Amendments

**F74** Words repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), **Sch. 9**

**F75** Words repealed by [Companies Act 1980 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 88, **Sch. 4**

**F76** Words in s. 63(2) repealed (16.10.1992) by [Trade Union and Labour Relations \(Consolidation\) Act 1992 \(c. 52\)](#), ss. 300(1), 302, **Sch.1** (with Sch. 3 para. 2).

#### Marginal Citations

**M35** [1975 c. 21](#).

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

## PART VI

### SUPPLEMENTARY

#### 64 Meaning of “indictable offence”, “summary offence” and “offence triable either way” in England and Wales.

(1) In this Act . . . <sup>F77</sup>—

- (a) “indictable offence” means an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable on indictment, whether it is exclusively so triable or triable either way;
- (b) “summary offence” means an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable only summarily;
- (c) “offence triable either way” means an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable either on indictment or summarily;

and the terms “indictable”, “summary” and “triable either way”, in their application to offences, shall be construed accordingly.

(2) In the definitions in subsection (1) above references to the way or ways in which an offence is triable are to be construed without regard to the effect, if any, of [<sup>F78</sup>section 22 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (cases where value involved is small)] on the mode of trial.

#### Textual Amendments

**F77** Words repealed by [Interpretation Act 1978 \(c. 30\)](#), [Sch. 3](#)

**F78** Words substituted by [Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 152](#)

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

**C10** [S. 64\(1\)](#) extended (N.I.) by [Finance Act 1983 \(c. 28\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 1\(1\)](#)

#### 65 Citation, etc.

(1) This Act may be cited as the Criminal Law Act 1977.

(2) The provisions of sections [<sup>F79</sup>15] to 32 and 48 above, so far as they relate to proceedings before magistrates’ courts, shall be construed as one with the [<sup>F80</sup>Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980], except that in those provisions “fine” shall include any pecuniary penalty.

(3) Except where the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Act to any enactment is a reference to it as amended, and includes a reference to it as extended or applied, by or under any other enactment, including this Act.

<sup>x13</sup>(4) The enactments specified in Schedule 12 to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments there specified, being minor amendments and amendments consequential on the provisions of this Act.

<sup>x13</sup>(5) Subject to the transitional provisions contained in this Act, the enactments specified in Schedule 13 to this Act (which include certain spent provisions) are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

- (6) There shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament any increase attributable to the provisions of this Act in the sums payable out of such money under any other Act.
- (7) This Act shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may appoint by order made by statutory instrument, and different days may be so appointed for different purposes.
- (8) Without prejudice to any other transitional provision contained in this Act, the transitional provisions contained in Schedule 14 to this Act shall have effect.
- (9) Without prejudice to Schedule 14 or any other transitional provision contained in this Act, an order under subsection (7) above may make such transitional provision as appears to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient in connection with the provisions thereby brought into force.
- (10) In this Act—
- (a) Part V and, so far as there provided, the provisions mentioned in section 63(2) above extend to Scotland;
  - (b) the following provisions extend to Northern Ireland namely—
    - sections 38 to 40,  
..... F81
    - section 52,  
..... F82
    - subsections (1), (3) and (6) to (10) of this section,  
Schedule 7,  
in Schedule 14, paragraph 5;
  - (c) section 31 and Schedule 6, so far as they amend any enactment which extends to the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, extend to the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, as the case may be;
  - (d) subsections (4) and (5) above and Schedules 12 and 13, so far as they relate to—
    - (i) section 45 of the <sup>M36</sup>Prison Act 1952 (in its application to persons for the time being in Northern Ireland or in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man);
    - (ii) Part III and section 39(1) of the <sup>M37</sup>Criminal Justice Act 1961; and
    - (iii) sections 60 and 63 of the <sup>M38</sup>Criminal Justice Act 1967 (in their application to persons for the time being in Northern Ireland or in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man),  
extend to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (as well as, by virtue of paragraph (a) above, to Scotland);
  - (e) section 32(3) extends to all places (except Scotland) to which section 2 of the <sup>M39</sup>European Communities Act 1972 extends (as well as, by virtue of paragraph (a) above, to Scotland), . . . F83;
- but save as aforesaid, this Act extends to England and Wales only.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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)*

#### Editorial Information

- X13** The text of ss. 5(10)(11), 15(2), 17, 30(1)(2), 31(10), 32(3), 46, 49, 52, 57, 63(1), 65(4)(5), Sch. 13 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Subordinate Legislation Made

- P1** [S. 65\(7\)](#): power of appointment fully exercised (Act wholly in force on 20.5.1985): [S.I. 1977/1365](#), 1426, 1682, 1744; 1978/712, 900; 1980/487, 587, 1632, 1701; 1982/243; 1985/579

#### Textual Amendments

- F79** Figure substituted by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 153](#)  
**F80** Words substituted by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 7 para. 153](#)  
**F81** Words repealed by [Criminal Appeal \(Northern Ireland\) Act 1980 \(c. 47, SIF 38\)](#), [Sch. 5](#)  
**F82** Words repealed (N.I.) by [S.I. 1981/1115](#), [Sch. 7](#)  
**F83** Words repealed by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)

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

- C11** [S. 65\(2\)](#) extended (N.I.) by [Finance Act 1983 \(c. 28, SIF 40:1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 1\(1\)](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M36** 1952 c. 52.  
**M37** 1961 c. 39.  
**M38** 1967 c. 80.  
**M39** 1972 c. 68.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/01/1996.

**Changes to legislation:**

Criminal Law Act 1977 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 October 2023. 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.