



# Criminal Attempts Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 47

### PART I

#### ATTEMPTS ETC.

#### *Supplementary*

#### **6 Effect of Part I on common law.**

- (1) The offence of attempt at common law and any offence at common law of procuring materials for crime are hereby abolished for all purposes not relating to acts done before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Except as regards offences committed before the commencement of this Act, references in any enactment passed before this Act which fall to be construed as references to the offence of attempt at common law shall be construed as references to the offence under section 1 above.

#### **7 Amendments consequential on Part I.**

- (1) The following subsection shall be inserted after subsection (2) of section 70 of the Army Act 1955<sup>M1</sup>, section 70 of the Air Force Act 1955<sup>M2</sup> and section 42 of the Naval Discipline Act 1957<sup>M3</sup> (all of which relate to civil offences)—

“(2A) For the purpose of determining under this section whether an attempt to commit an offence is a civil offence, subsection (4) of section 1 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 (which relates to the offence of attempt) shall have effect as if for the words “offence which, if it were completed, would be triable in England and Wales as an indictable offence” there were substituted the words “civil offence consisting of an act punishable by the law of England and Wales as an indictable offence or an act which, if committed in England or Wales, would be so punishable by that law”.”

---

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, Cross Heading: Supplementary. (See end of Document for details)

---

- (2) In paragraph 3(1) of Part II of Schedule 6 to the <sup>M4</sup>Firearms Act 1968, the reference to an offence triable either way listed in Schedule 1 to the <sup>M5</sup>Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 includes a reference to an offence under section 1 above of attempting to commit the offence so listed.
- (3) In section 12(1)(a) of the <sup>M6</sup>Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the reference to an offence under that Act includes a reference to an offence under section 1 above of attempting to commit such an offence.

---

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

- C1** The text of ss. 5, 7(1), 10 and Sch. is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991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**

- M1** 1955 c. 18.  
**M2** 1955 c. 19.  
**M3** 1957 c. 53.  
**M4** 1968 c. 27.  
**M5** 1980 c. 43.  
**M6** 1971 c. 38.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, Cross  
Heading: Supplementary.