



Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

1984 CHAPTER 60

PART III

ARREST

24 Arrest without warrant for arrestable offences

- (1) The powers of summary arrest conferred by the following subsections shall apply—
- (a) to offences for which the sentence is fixed by law ;
 - (b) to offences for which a person of 21 years of age or over (not previously convicted) may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of five years (or might be so sentenced but for the restrictions imposed by section 33 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980); and
 - (c) to the offences to which subsection (2) below applies,
- and in this Act " arrestable offence " means any such offence.
- (2) The offences to which this subsection applies are—
- (a) offences for which a person may be arrested under the customs and excise Acts, as defined in section 1(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 ;
 - (b) offences under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 and 1920 that are not arrestable offences by virtue of the term of imprisonment for which a person may be sentenced in respect of them ;
 - (c) offences under section 14 (indecent assault on a woman), 22 (causing prostitution of women) or 23 (procurement of girl under 21) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 ;
 - (d) offences under section 12(1)(taking motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority etc) or 25(1) (going equipped for stealing, etc.) of the Theft Act 1968 ; and
 - (e) offences under section 1 of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 (corruption in office) or section 1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 (corrupt transactions with agents).

- (3) Without prejudice to section 2 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, the powers of summary arrest conferred by the following subsections shall also apply to the offences of—
- (a) conspiring to commit any of the offences mentioned in subsection (2) above;
 - (b) attempting to commit any such offence ;
 - (c) inciting, aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of any such offence ;
- and such offences are also arrestable offences for the purposes of this Act.
- (4) Any person may arrest without a warrant—
- (a) anyone who is in the act of committing an arrestable offence;
 - (b) anyone whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be committing such an offence.
- (5) Where an arrestable offence has been committed, any person may arrest without a warrant—
- (a) anyone who is guilty of the offence ;
 - (b) anyone whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be guilty of it.
- (6) Where a constable has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an arrestable offence has been committed, he may arrest without a warrant anyone whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be guilty of the offence.
- (7) A constable may arrest without a warrant—
- (a) anyone who is about to commit an arrestable offence ;
 - (b) anyone whom he has reasonable grounds for suspecting to be about to commit an arrestable offence.