



Criminal Justice Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 33

PART XI

MISCELLANEOUS

Articles with blades or points and offensive weapons

[141A ^{F1} Sale of knives and certain articles with blade or point to persons under sixteen.

E+W

- (1) Any person who sells to a person under the age of [^{F2}eighteen] years an article to which this section applies shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or both.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, this section applies to—
 - (a) any knife, knife blade or razor blade,
 - (b) any axe, and
 - (c) any other article which has a blade or which is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.
- (3) This section does not apply to any article described in—
 - (a) section 1 of the ^{M1} Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959, [^{F3}or]
 - ^{F4}(b)
 - (c) an order made by the Secretary of State under this section.
- (4) [^{F5}Subject to section 141B, it] shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) above to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.
- (5) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice Act 1988, Section 141A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Extent Information

- E1** This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 141A inserted (1.1.1997) by 1996 c. 26, s. 6(1)(3); S.I. 1996/3063, art.2
- F2** Word in s. 141A(1) substituted (E.W.) (1.10.2007) by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (c. 38), ss. 43(2), 66(2); S.I. 2007/2180, art. 3(j)
- F3** Word in s. 141A(3)(a) inserted (1.1.2022 for S., 6.4.2022 for E.W.) by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), ss. 34(1)(a), 70(1)(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(e); S.I. 2022/418, reg. 2(b) (with reg. 3)
- F4** S. 141A(3)(b) and word omitted (1.1.2022 for S., 6.4.2022 for E.W.) by virtue of Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), ss. 34(1)(b), 70(1)(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(e); S.I. 2022/418, reg. 2(b) (with reg. 3)
- F5** Words in s. 141A(4) substituted (E.W.) (6.4.2022) by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), ss. 35(2), 70(1); S.I. 2022/418, reg. 2(b) (with reg. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 141A(1) excluded (1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/3064, art.2

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1959 c. 37.

[141A ^{F1}[^{F6}Sale of knives and certain articles with blade or point to persons under eighteen] **S**

- (1) [^{F7}Subject to subsection (3A) below]Any person who sells [^{F8}or lets on hire] to a person under the age of [^{F9}eighteen] years an article to which this section applies shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or both.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, this section applies to—

(a) any knife, knife blade or razor blade,

(b) any axe, ^{F10} . . .

[any sword; and]
^{F11}(ba)

(c) any other article which has a blade or which is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.

- (3) This section does not apply to any article described in—

(a) section 1 of the ^{M1}Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959, [^{F12}or]

^{F13}(b)

(c) an order made by the Secretary of State under this section.

- [^{F14}(3A) [^{F15}Except where section 141C applies, it] is not an offence under subsection (1) to sell [^{F16}or let on hire]a knife or knife blade to a person if—

(a) the person is aged 16 or over; and

(b) the knife or blade is designed for domestic use.]

Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

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- [^{F17}(4) [^{F18} Except where section 141C applies, it] is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) (referred to in this section as “ the accused ”) to show that—
- (a) the accused believed the person to whom the article was sold or let on hire (referred to in this section as “ the purchaser or hirer ”) to be of or above the relevant age, and
 - (b) either—
 - (i) the accused had taken reasonable steps to establish the purchaser or hirer's age, or
 - (ii) no reasonable person could have suspected from the purchaser or hirer's appearance that the purchaser or hirer was aged under the relevant age.
- (4A) For the purposes of subsection (4)(b)(i), the accused is to be treated as having taken reasonable steps to establish the purchaser or hirer's age if and only if—
- (a) the accused was shown any of the documents mentioned in subsection (4B), and
 - (b) the document would have convinced a reasonable person.
- (4B) Those documents are any document bearing to be—
- (a) a passport,
 - [^{F19}(aa) a UK driving licence,]
 - (b) a European Union photocard driving licence, or
 - (c) such other document, or a document of such other description, as the Scottish Ministers may by order prescribe.
- (4C) In subsection (4), “the relevant age” is—
- (a) in the case where the article is a knife or knife blade designed for domestic use, 16 years, and
 - (b) in any other case, 18 years.]
- (5) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Extent Information

- E2** This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 141A inserted (1.1.1997) by 1996 c. 26, s. 6(1)(3); S.I. 1996/3063, art.2
- F6** S. 141A sidenote substituted (S.) (1.9.2006) by virtue of Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), ss. 75(5), 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, art. 2(d)
- F7** Words in s. 141A(1) inserted (S.) (1.9.2006) by Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), ss. 75(2)(a), 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, art. 2(d)
- F8** Words in s. 141A(1) inserted (S.) (28.3.2011) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), ss. 36(2), 206(1); S.S.I. 2011/178, art. 2, Sch.
- F9** Word in s. 141A(1) substituted (S.) (1.9.2006) by Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), ss. 75(2)(b), 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, art. 2(d)

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- F10** Word in s. 141A(2) repealed (S.) (1.9.2006) by Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), **ss. 75(3)(a)**, 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, **art. 2(d)**
- F11** S. 141A(2)(ba) inserted (S.) (1.9.2006) by Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), **ss. 75(3)(b)**, 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, **art. 2(d)**
- F12** Word in s. 141A(3)(a) inserted (1.1.2021 for S., 6.4.2022 for E.W.) by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), **ss. 34(1)(a)**, 70(1)(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(e); S.I. 2022/418, **reg. 2(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F13** S. 141A(3)(b) and word omitted (1.1.2021 for S., 6.4.2022 for E.W.) by virtue of Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), **ss. 34(1)(b)**, 70(1)(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(e); S.I. 2022/418, **reg. 2(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F14** S. 141A(3A) inserted (S.) (1.9.2006) by Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 10), **ss. 75(4)**, 104; S.S.I. 2006/432, **art. 2(d)**
- F15** Words in s. 141A(3A) substituted (S.) (1.1.2021) by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), **ss. 36(2)**, 70(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(f)
- F16** Words in s. 141A(3A) inserted (S.) (28.3.2011) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), **ss. 36(3)**, 206(1); S.S.I. 2011/178, art. 2, Sch.
- F17** S. 141A(4)-(4C) substituted (S.) (28.3.2011) for s. 141A(4) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), **ss. 36(4)**, 206(1); S.S.I. 2011/178, art. 2, Sch.
- F18** Words in s. 141A(4) substituted (S.) (1.1.2021) by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (c. 17), **ss. 36(2)**, 70(2); S.S.I. 2020/410, reg. 2(f)
- F19** S. 141A(4B)(aa) inserted (S.) (31.12.2020) by The Licensing (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/6), regs. 1, **4(2)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 141A(1) excluded (1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/3064, **art.2**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1959 c. 37.

Status:

There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents.

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Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 36(2)(b)(v) and word inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 36(3A)(3B) substituted for s. 36(3A) by [2008 c. 4 s. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 41(4A) inserted by [2004 c. 28 Sch. 10 para. 28](#)
- s. 139AZA(1)(a)(iii) and word inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 13\(4\)\(b\)](#)