



Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART I

PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

Directions to traffic and to pedestrians and traffic signs

35 Drivers to comply with traffic directions.

- (1) Where a constable [^{F1}or traffic officer] is for the time being engaged in the regulation of traffic in a road, a person driving or propelling a vehicle who neglects or refuses—
- (a) to stop the vehicle, or
 - (b) to make it proceed in, or keep to, a particular line of traffic,
- when directed to do so by the constable in the execution of his duty [^{F2}or the traffic officer (as the case may be)] is guilty of an offence.
- (2) Where—
- (a) a traffic survey of any description is being carried out on or in the vicinity of a road, and
 - (b) a constable [^{F3}or traffic officer] gives to a person driving or propelling a vehicle a direction—
 - (i) to stop the vehicle,
 - (ii) to make it proceed in, or keep to, a particular line of traffic, or
 - (iii) to proceed to a particular point on or near the road on which the vehicle is being driven or propelled,being a direction given for the purposes of the survey (but not a direction requiring any person to provide any information for the purposes of a traffic survey),
- the person is guilty of an offence if he neglects or refuses to comply with the direction.
- (3) The power to give such a direction as is referred to in subsection (2) above for the purposes of a traffic survey shall be so exercised as not to cause any unreasonable

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delay to a person who indicates that he is unwilling to provide any information for the purposes of the survey.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 35(1) inserted (E.W.) (4.10.2004 for E. and 1.5.2009 for W.) by [Traffic Management Act 2004 \(c. 18\)](#), [ss. 6\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#), 99 (with s. 38); S.I. 2004/2380, [art. 2\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/1095, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 35(1) inserted (E.W.) (4.10.2004 for E. and 1.5.2009 for W.) by [Traffic Management Act 2004 \(c. 18\)](#), [ss. 6\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#), 99 (with s. 38); S.I. 2004/2380, [art. 2\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/1095, [art. 2](#)
- F3** Words in s. 35(2)(b) inserted (E.W.) (4.10.2004 for E. and 1.5.2009 for W.) by [Traffic Management Act 2004 \(c. 18\)](#), [ss. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#), 99 (with s. 38); S.I. 2004/2380, [art. 2\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/1095, [art. 2](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 35 modified (12.2.2002) by 2002 c. 30, s. 38, [Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 12\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/2750, [art. 2\(a\)\(ii\)\(d\)](#)
S. 35 modified (12.2.2002) by 2002 c. 30, s. 41, [Sch. 5 para. 9\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/2750, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
S. 35 modified by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), [Sch. 4 para. 11B\(4\)](#) (as inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 122\(7\)](#), 178, [Sch. 8 para. 10](#); S.I. 2005/1521, [art. 3\(1\)](#) (subject to [art. 3\(4\)\(5\)\)](#))
S. 35 modified by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), [Sch. 5 para. 8B\(4\)](#) (as inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 122\(7\)](#), 178, [Sch. 8 para. 20](#); S.I. 2005/1521, [art. 3\(1\)](#) (subject to [art. 3\(4\)\(5\)\)](#))
- C2** S. 35(1): power to extend conferred by [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 \(c.27, SIF 107:1\)](#), [s. 96\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) (as amended by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54, SIF 107:1\)](#), [s. 4](#), [Sch. 3 para. 25\(6\)\(a\)](#))
S. 35(1) extended (S.) (21.3.1999) by S.I. 1999/854, [art. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#)

36 Drivers to comply with traffic signs.

- (1) Where a traffic sign, being a sign—
- (a) of the prescribed size, colour and type, or
 - (b) of another character authorised by the Secretary of State under the provisions in that behalf of the ^{MI}Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,
- has been lawfully placed on or near a road, a person driving or propelling a vehicle who fails to comply with the indication given by the sign is guilty of an offence.
- (2) A traffic sign shall not be treated for the purposes of this section as having been lawfully placed unless either—
- (a) the indication given by the sign is an indication of a statutory prohibition, restriction or requirement, or
 - (b) it is expressly provided by or under any provision of the Traffic Acts that this section shall apply to the sign or to signs of a type of which the sign is one;
- and, where the indication mentioned in paragraph (a) of this subsection is of the general nature only of the prohibition, restriction or requirement to which the sign relates, a person shall not be convicted of failure to comply with the indication unless he has failed to comply with the prohibition, restriction or requirement to which the sign relates.
- (3) For the purposes of this section a traffic sign placed on or near a road shall be deemed—

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- (a) to be of the prescribed size, colour and type, or of another character authorised by the Secretary of State under the provisions in that behalf of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and
- (b) (subject to subsection (2) above) to have been lawfully so placed, unless the contrary is proved.
- (4) Where a traffic survey of any description is being carried out on or in the vicinity of a road, this section applies to a traffic sign by which a direction is given—
- (a) to stop a vehicle,
- (b) to make it proceed in, or keep to, a particular line of traffic, or
- (c) to proceed to a particular point on or near the road on which the vehicle is being driven or propelled,
- being a direction given for the purposes of the survey (but not a direction requiring any person to provide any information for the purposes of the survey).
- (5) Regulations made by [^{F4}the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions], the Secretary of State for Wales and the Secretary of State for Scotland acting jointly may specify any traffic sign for the purposes of column 5 of the entry in Schedule 2 to the ^{M2}Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 relating to offences under this section (offences committed by failing to comply with certain signs involve discretionary disqualification).

Textual Amendments

- F4** Words in s. 36(5) substituted (26.1.1998) by [S.I. 1997/2971](#), art. 6(1), [Sch. para. 10](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 36 applied (with modifications) (30.12.2003) by [London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 \(c. iii\)](#), s. 7(4)
- C4** S. 36: power to extend conferred by [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 \(c.27, SIF 107:1\)](#), ss. 64(5), 96(2)(c)(i) (as amended by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54, SIF 107:1\)](#), s. 4, [Sch. 3 paras. 25\(3\)\(6\)\(a\)](#))
- C5** S. 36 extended by [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 \(c. 27, SIF 107:1\)](#), s. 67(2) (as amended by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54, SIF 107:1\)](#), s. 4, [Sch. 3 para. 25\(5\)](#))
- C6** S. 36 applied (with modifications) (29.3.1993) by 1993 c. iv, ss. 25(1)(b)(3), 26(1)(b)(3) (with ss. 36, 41(5), 44(1))
S. 36 applied (12.8.1994) by [S.I. 1994/1519](#), [reg. 10\(1\)](#) (which [S.I. 1994/1519](#) is revoked (31.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3113](#), [reg. 2](#))
S. 36 applied (S.) (4.1.1995) by 1994 c. 39, s. 150(2); [S.I. 1994/2850](#), art. 3(a), [Sch. 2](#)
S. 36 applied (1.3.1998) by [S.I. 1997/3053](#), [reg. 4\(2\)](#)
S. 36 applied (31.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3113](#), [reg. 10\(1\)](#)
S. 36 applied by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), Sch. 4 para. 13A(2) (as inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 122(7), 178, [Sch. 8 para. 11](#); [S.I. 2005/1521](#), [art. 3\(1\)](#) (subject to [art. 3\(4\)\(5\)](#)))
- C7** S. 36(1) excluded (S.) (18.11.2003) by [Road Traffic Act 1991 \(c. 40\)](#), [Sch. 3 para. 2\(4\)](#) (as inserted by [The Road Traffic Act 1991 \(Special Parking Area\) \(Scotland\) Order 2003 \(S.S.I 2003/508\)](#), {art. 2})
- C8** S. 36(5): transfer of certain functions (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), arts. 1, 2, [Sch. 1](#)
S. 36(5): transfer of functions (27.12.1999) by [S.I. 1999/3143](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)
S. 36(5) amended (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/1750](#), arts. 1(1), 4, [Sch. 3](#) (with art. 7); [S.I. 1998/3178](#), [art. 3](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1984 c. 27.

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M2 1988 c. 53.

37 Directions to pedestrians.

Where a constable in uniform [^{F5}or traffic officer] is for the time being engaged in the regulation of vehicular traffic in a road, a person on foot who proceeds across or along the carriageway in contravention of a direction to stop given by the constable in the execution of his duty [^{F6}or the traffic officer (as the case may be)], either to persons on foot or to persons on foot and other traffic, is guilty of an offence.

Textual Amendments

- F5** Words in s. 37 inserted (E.W.) (4.10.2004 for E. and 1.5.2009 for W.) by [Traffic Management Act 2004 \(c. 18\)](#), [ss. 6\(3\)\(a\)](#), 99 (with s. 38); S.I. 2004/2380, [art. 2\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/1095, [art. 2](#)
- F6** Words in s. 37 inserted (E.W.) (4.10.2004 for E. and 1.5.2009 for W.) by [Traffic Management Act 2004 \(c. 18\)](#), [ss. 6\(3\)\(b\)](#), 99 (with s. 38); S.I. 2004/2380, [art. 2\(a\)](#); S.I. 2009/1095, [art. 2](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9** S. 37: power to extend conferred by [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 \(c.27, SIF 107:1\)](#), [s. 96\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) (as amended by [Road Traffic \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1988 \(c. 54, SIF 107:1\)](#), s. 4, [Sch. 3 paras. 25\(6\)\(a\)](#))
- C10** S. 37 extended (S.) (21.3.1999) by S.I. 1999/854, [art. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- C11** S. 37 modified (2.12.2002) by 2002 c. 30, s. 38, [Sch. 4 Pt. 1 para. 12\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/2750, [art. 2\(a\)\(ii\)\(d\)](#)
 S. 37 modified (2.12.2002) by 2002 c. 30, s. 41, [Sch. 5 para. 9\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/2750, [art. 2\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
 S. 37 modified by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), Sch. 4 para. 11B(4) (as inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 122(7), 178, [Sch. 8 para. 10](#); S.I. 2005/1521, [art. 3\(1\)](#) (subject to art. 3(4)(5)))
 S. 37 modified by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), Sch. 5 para. 8B(4) (as inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 122(7), 178, [Sch. 8 para. 20](#); S.I. 2005/1521, [art. 3\(1\)](#) (subject to art. 3(4)(5)))

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