



Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Powers of constables and other authorised persons

164 Power of constables to require production of driving licence and in certain cases statement of date of birth.

- (1) Any of the following persons—
- (a) a person driving a motor vehicle on a road,
 - (b) a person whom a constable [^{F1}or vehicle examiner] has reasonable cause to believe to have been the driver of a motor vehicle at a time when an accident occurred owing to its presence on a road,
 - (c) a person whom a constable [^{F1}or vehicle examiner] has reasonable cause to believe to have committed an offence in relation to the use of a motor vehicle on a road, or
 - (d) a person—
 - (i) who supervises the holder of a provisional licence while the holder is driving a motor vehicle on a road, or
 - (ii) whom a constable [^{F1}or vehicle examiner] has reasonable cause to believe was supervising the holder of a provisional licence while driving, at a time when an accident occurred owing to the presence of the vehicle on a road or at a time when an offence is suspected of having been committed by the holder of the provisional licence in relation to the use of the vehicle on a road,

must, on being so required by a constable [^{F1}or vehicle examiner], produce his licence ^{F2}... for examination, so as to enable the constable [^{F1}or vehicle examiner] to ascertain the name and address of the holder of the licence, the date of issue, and the authority by which [^{F3}it was] issued.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/11/2022.

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 164 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 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)

- (2) [F⁴A person required by a constable under subsection (1) above to produce his licence] must in prescribed circumstances, on being so required by the constable, state his date of birth.
- (3) If—
- [F⁵(a) [F⁶a person is required to deliver his licence F²... to the Secretary of State under section 63 of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 or] the Secretary of State has—
- (i) revoked a licence under section [F⁷92,] 93 or 99 of this Act, or
 - (ii) revoked or suspended a large goods vehicle driver's licence or a passenger-carrying vehicle driver's licence under section 115 of this Act, and][F⁸or
 - (iii) served notice requiring the delivery of a licence to him in pursuance of section 99C [F⁹, 109B] or 115A of this Act,]
- (b) the holder of the licence fails to deliver it F²... to the Secretary of State [F¹⁰or [F¹¹a traffic commissioner] , as the case may be] in pursuance of [F¹²section [F⁷ 92,] 93, 99 [F¹³99C, [F¹⁴, 109B] 115A or 118][F¹⁵or section 63 of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003] (as the case may be)],
- a constable [F¹⁶or vehicle examiner] may require him to [F¹⁷produce the licence F²...], and upon [F¹⁸its] being produced may seize [F¹⁹it] and deliver [F¹⁹it] to the Secretary of State.
- (4) Where a constable has reasonable cause to believe that the holder of a licence, or any other person, has knowingly made a false statement for the purpose of obtaining the grant of the licence, the constable may require the holder of the licence to produce it F²... to him.
- [F²⁰(4A) Where a constable to whom a provisional licence has been produced by a person driving a motor bicycle has reasonable cause to believe that the holder was not driving it as part of the training being provided on a training course for motor cyclists, the constable may require him to produce the prescribed certificate of completion of a training course for motor cyclists.]
- (5) Where a person has been required under [F²¹section 26 or 27 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 [F²², section 40B of the Child Support Act 1991][F²³, section 40 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, [F²⁴section 168 of the Sentencing Code]] or section 223A or 436A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975] to produce a licence F²... to the court and fails to do so, a constable may require him to produce [F²⁵it] and, upon [F²⁶its] being produced, may seize [F²⁵it] and deliver [F²⁵it] to the court.
- [F²⁷(5A) If a person is required to surrender the person's licence or test certificate to the Secretary of State under—
- (a) section 37A of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, or
 - (b) section 3A of, or paragraph 5A or 8A of Schedule 1 to, the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995,
- and fails to do so, a constable or vehicle examiner may require the person to produce the licence or test certificate and, upon its being produced, may seize it and deliver it to the Secretary of State.
- (5B) In subsection (5A), “test certificate” has the same meaning as in Schedule 1 to the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995.]

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(6) If a person required under the preceding provisions of this section to produce a licence^{F2}... or state his date of birth [^{F28}or to produce his certificate of completion of a training course for motor cyclists]. . . fails to do so he is, subject to subsections [^{F29}(8) and][^{F30}(8A)] below, guilty of an offence.

^{F31}(7)

(8) In proceedings against any person for the offence of failing to produce a licence^{F2}... it shall be a defence for him to show that—

- (a) within seven days after the production of his licence^{F2}... was required he produced [^{F32}it] in person at a police station that was specified by him at the time [^{F33}its] production was required, or
- (b) he produced [^{F32}it] in person there as soon as was reasonably practicable, or
- (c) it was not reasonably practicable for him to produce [^{F32}it] there before the day on which the proceedings were commenced,

and for the purposes of this subsection the laying of the information or, in Scotland, the service of the complaint on the accused shall be treated as the commencement of the proceedings.

^{F34}[(8A) Subsection (8) above shall apply in relation to a certificate of completion of a training course for motor cyclists as it applies in relation to a licence.]

(9) Where in accordance with this section a person has stated his date of birth to a constable, the Secretary of State may serve on that person a notice in writing requiring him to provide the Secretary of State—

- (a) with such evidence in that person's possession or obtainable by him as the Secretary of State may specify for the purpose of verifying that date, and
- (b) if his name differs from his name at the time of his birth, with a statement in writing specifying his name at that time,

and a person who knowingly fails to comply with a notice under this subsection is guilty of an offence.

(10) A notice authorised to be served on any person by subsection (9) above may be served on him[^{F35}—

- (a) if the statement to the constable was made in England and Wales, in accordance with Criminal Procedure Rules, or
- (b) if that statement was made elsewhere,]

by delivering it to him or by leaving it at his proper address or by sending it to him by post; and for the purposes of [^{F36}this paragraph] and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978^{M1} in its application to [^{F36}this paragraph] the proper address of any person shall be his latest address as known to the person giving the notice.

[^{F37}(10A) For the purposes of subsection (10)(a)—

- (a) Criminal Procedure Rules (as they have effect from time to time) apply to the notice as if it were a document to be served in criminal proceedings before a magistrates' court, and
- (b) any magistrates' court may discharge functions conferred on a court by those Rules in relation to such service.]

[^{F38}(11) In this section—

“licence” means a licence under Part III of this Act [^{F39}, a Northern Ireland licence]or a Community licence,

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“vehicle examiner” means an examiner appointed under section 66A of this Act; and “Community licence”, ^{F40}... , [^{F41}“Northern Ireland licence”], “provisional licence”, “training course for motor cyclists” and, in relation to such a course, “the prescribed certificate of completion” have the same meanings as in Part III of this Act.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 164(1) inserted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(2)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F2** Words in s. 164 repealed (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), Sch. 3 para. 26(2), **Sch. 7(4)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3 (with arts. 4-9)
- F3** Words in s. 164(1) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(3)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F4** Words in s. 164(2) substituted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(3)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F5** S. 164(3)(a) substituted (1.4.1991) by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c.22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 18(a)(i)**
- F6** Words in s. 164(3)(a) inserted (28.1.2010) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(a)(i)**; S.I. 2008/3009, art. 2; London Gazette issue no. 59317 dated 26.1.2010, p. 1229; Edinburgh Gazette issue no. 26739 dated 26.1.2010, p. 244; Belfast Gazette issue no. 7156 dated 22.1.2010, p. 33
- F7** Words in s. 164(3) inserted (1.7.1998) by S.I. 1998/1420, **reg. 14**
- F8** S. 164(3)(a)(iii) and preceding word “or” inserted (23.7.1996 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/1974, **reg. 2, Sch. 1 para. 30(2)(a)**
- F9** Words in s. 164(3)(a)(iii) inserted (11.10.2004) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(a)(ii)**; S.I. 2004/2624, **art. 2(2)(b)**
- F10** Words inserted (1.4.1991) by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 18(a)(ii)**
- F11** Words in s. 164(3)(b) substituted (3.7.2013) by The Local Transport Act 2008 (Traffic Commissioners) (Consequential Amendments) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1644), art. 1(1), **Sch. 1** (with arts. 1(3), 2, 7)
- F12** Words substituted (1.4.1991) by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 18(a)(ii)**
- F13** Words in s. 164(3)(b) substituted (23.7.1996 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/1974, **reg. 2, Sch. 1 para. 30(2)(b)**
- F14** Words in s. 164(3)(b) inserted (11.10.2004) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(a)(iii)**; S.I. 2004/2624, **art. 2(2)(b)**
- F15** Words in s. 164(3)(b) inserted (28.1.2010) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(a)(iii)**; S.I. 2008/3009, **art. 2**; London Gazette issue no. 59317 dated 26.1.2010, p. 1229; Edinburgh Gazette issue no. 26739 dated 26.1.2010, p. 244; Belfast Gazette issue no. 7156 dated 22.1.2010, p. 33
- F16** Words in s. 164(3) inserted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(4)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F17** Word(s) substituted by S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2(1), 3, **Sch. 1 para. 9(b)(ii)(iii)**
- F18** Word in s. 164(3) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(4)(a)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F19** Words in s. 164(3) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(4)(b)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F20** S. 164(4A) inserted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c.22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 18(b)**
- F21** Words in s. 164(5) substituted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(5)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**

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- F22** Words in s. 164(5) inserted (10.11.2000 for specified purposes and otherwise 2.4.2001) by 2000 c. 19, s. 16(4) (with s. 83(6)); S.I. 2000/2994, art. 2(1), **Sch. Pt. I**; S.I. 2000/3554, art. 2(3)
- F23** Words in s. 164(5) substituted (25.8.2000) by 2000 c. 6, ss. 165(1), 168(1), **Sch. 9 para. 117**
- F24** Words in s. 164(5) substituted (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), **Sch. 24 para. 98** (with Sch. 24 para. 447, Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2
- F25** Words in s. 164(5) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(5)(a)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F26** Word in s. 164(5) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(5)(b)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F27** S. 164(5A)(5B) inserted (30.11.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), s. 208(1), **Sch. 10 para. 23(2)**; S.I. 2022/1187, reg. 4(a) (with Pt. 3)
- F28** Words inserted by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c.22, SIF 107:1), s. 7, **Sch. 3 para. 18(c)**
- F29** Words in s. 164(6) substituted (30.11.2022) by Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), s. 208(1), **Sch. 10 para. 23(3)**; S.I. 2022/1187, reg. 4(a) (with Pt. 3)
- F30** Words in s. 164(6) substituted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(6)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F31** S. 164(7) omitted (30.11.2022) by virtue of Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (c. 32), s. 208(1), **Sch. 10 para. 23(4)**; S.I. 2022/1187, reg. 4(a) (with Pt. 3)
- F32** Words in s. 164(8) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(7)(a)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F33** Word in s. 164(8) substituted (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), **Sch. 3 para. 26(7)(b)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3(a) (with arts. 4-9)
- F34** S. 164(8A) inserted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 68(7)**; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F35** S. 164(10)(a)(b) inserted (28.6.2022) by Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (c. 35), s. 51(3), **Sch. 1 para. 10(2)(a)(i)**
- F36** Words in s. 164(10) substituted (28.6.2022) by Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (c. 35), s. 51(3), **Sch. 1 para. 10(2)(a)(ii)**
- F37** S. 164(10A) inserted (28.6.2022) by Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (c. 35), s. 51(3), **Sch. 1 para. 10(2)(b)**
- F38** S. 164(11) substituted (27.3.1996 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.1.1997) by S.I. 1996/1974, reg. 2, **Sch. 1 para. 30(3)**
- F39** S. 164(11): words in definition of "licence" inserted (11.10.2004) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(b)(i)**; S.I. 2004/2624, art. 2(2)(b)
- F40** Word in s. 164(11) repealed (8.6.2015) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), s. 61(1)(10), Sch. 3 para. 26(8), **Sch. 7(4)**; S.I. 2015/560, art. 3 (with arts. 4-9)
- F41** Words in s. 164(11) inserted (11.10.2004) by Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (c. 32), ss. 91(1), 94, **Sch. 5 para. 27(b)(ii)**; S.I. 2004/2624, art. 2(2)(b)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 164(1)(6)(8) applied (with modifications) (12.11.1999) by S.I. 1999/2864, **reg. 80(5)(e)**
- C2** S. 164(1): power to extend conferred by Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (c. 27, SIF 107:1), s. 96(2)(c)(iii)(3) (as amended by Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (c. 54, SIF 107:1), s. 4, **Sch. 3 para. 25(6)(c)(7)(a)**)
- C3** S. 164(1) applied (with modifications) by S.I. 1987/1378, **reg. 25(3)** (as amended by S.I. 1990/842, **reg. 9**).
- C4** S. 164(2): power to extend conferred by Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (c. 27, SIF 107:1), s. 96(2)(c)(iii)(3) (as amended by Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (c. 54, SIF 107:1), s. 4, **Sch. 3 para. 25(6)(c)(7)(a)**)
- C5** S. 164(5) extended (E.W.) (1.1.1998) by 1997 C. 43, s. 39(5)(a), 40(6); S.I. 1997/2200, art. 3(b)(c)

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- C6** S. 164(6): power to extend conferred by Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (c.27, SIF 107:1), **s. 96(2)(c)(iii)(3)** (as amended by Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (c. 54, SIF 107:1), s. 4, **Sch. 3 para. 25(6)(c)(7)(a)**)
- C7** S. 164(6) applied (with modifications) by S.I. 1987/1378, **reg. 25(3)** (as amended by S.I. 1990/842, **reg. 9**).
- C8** S. 164(8) applied with modifications by S.I. 1987/1378, **reg. 25(3)** (as amended by S.I. 1990/842, **reg. 9**)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1978 c. 30.

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