



Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART I

PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

Driving offences

[^{F1}2A Meaning of dangerous driving.

- (1) For the purposes of sections 1 [^{F2}, 1A] and 2 above a person is to be regarded as driving dangerously if (and, subject to subsection (2) below, only if)—
 - (a) the way he drives falls far below what would be expected of a competent and careful driver, and
 - (b) it would be obvious to a competent and careful driver that driving in that way would be dangerous.
- (2) A person is also to be regarded as driving dangerously for the purposes of sections 1 [^{F2}, 1A] and 2 above if it would be obvious to a competent and careful driver that driving the vehicle in its current state would be dangerous.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) above “dangerous” refers to danger either of injury to any person or of serious damage to property; and in determining for the purposes of those subsections what would be expected of, or obvious to, a competent and careful driver in a particular case, regard shall be had not only to the circumstances of which he could be expected to be aware but also to any circumstances shown to have been within the knowledge of the accused.
- (4) In determining for the purposes of subsection (2) above the state of a vehicle, regard may be had to anything attached to or carried on or in it and to the manner in which it is attached or carried.]

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Road Traffic Act 1988. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F1** Ss. 1-2A substituted (1.7.1992) for ss. 1-2 by [Road Traffic Act 1991 \(c. 40, SIF 107:1\)](#), [s.1](#); S.I. [1992/1286](#), [art. 2](#), Sch.
- F2** Word in s. 2A(1)(2) inserted (3.12.2012) by [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(c. 10\)](#), [ss. 143\(3\)](#), [151\(1\)](#); S.I. [2012/2770](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)

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. 12(1A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 73(2)
- s. 12(1A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 73(2)
- s. 12A-12I inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 73(3)
- s. 12A-12I inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 73(3)
- s. 41(2)(m) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 18(1)(a)
- s. 41(2)(ba) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(3)
- s. 49(3A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 48(1)
- s. 53(6) inserted by S.I. 2017/849 reg. 3(e)
- s. 66(7A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(5)
- s. 85(1) word substituted by S.I. 2018/235 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(b)(i)
- s. 85(1) word substituted by S.I. 2018/235 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(b)(ii)
- s. 85(1) words substituted by S.I. 2018/235 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(a)
- s. 85(1) words substituted by S.I. 2018/235 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(c)
- s. 85(1) words substituted by S.I. 2018/236 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(a)
- s. 85(1) words substituted by S.I. 2018/236 Sch. 2 para. 1(3)(b)
- s. 97(1)(c) (ia) words repealed by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 6(2)(b) Sch. 7(4)
- s. 97(1ZA) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 38(2)
- s. 123(1)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(2)(c)
- s. 123(6A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(3)
- s. 124(3)-(5) inserted by 2009 c. 17 s. 3
- s. 124(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 2(b)
- s. 124(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 2(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(1A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(4)(a)
- s. 125(2A) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(4)(c)
- s. 125(2C) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(4)(d)
- s. 125(3A)-(3D) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3(2) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(3A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(4)(f)
- s. 125(4A)(4B) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(4)(g)
- s. 125(5A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3(3) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125A(5)-(7E) substituted for s. 125A(5)-(7) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 6(3)
- s. 126(3A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(5)(b)
- s. 126(5) omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 6
- s. 126(5) omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 6 (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 126A omitted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 8A (as inserted) by 2016 c. 16 s. 3(3)
- s. 126A heading words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3(2)
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3(3)(a)
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3(3)(b)
- s. 128(1A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(7)(b)
- s. 128(2B) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(7)(c)

- s. 128AZA 128AZB substituted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 10A (as inserted) by 2016 c. 16 s. 4(2)
- s. 128AZA heading words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(2)(a)
- s. 128AZA(1) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(2)(b)
- s. 128AZA(4) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(2)(c)
- s. 128AZB heading words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(3)(a)
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(3)(b)(i)
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4(3)(b)(ii)
- s. 131(3)(b)(c) substituted for s. 131(3)(b) and word by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(4)
- s. 131(6) inserted by 2016 c. 16 s. 2(4)
- s. 131(6) substituted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(9) (as inserted) by 2016 c. 16 s. 4(5)
- s. 133(2)(a) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10(a)
- s. 133(2)(a) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10(a) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133(2)(b) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10(b)
- s. 133(2)(b) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 135(2A) inserted by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(9)(b)
- s. 135(3)-(6) substituted for s. 135(3) by S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 2(9)(c)
- s. 140(1) (2) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23(2)
- s. 140(3) s. 140 renumbered as s. 140(3) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23(1)
- s. 141A(5) words repealed by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 24 Sch. 7(4)
- s. 173(2)(g)-(gb) substituted for s. 173(2)(g) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 27
- s. 173(2)(n) and word inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 37(8)
- s. 183(6A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 29
- s. 193A(3A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 75(4)
- s. 193A(3A) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 75(4)
- s. 195(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 75(5)
- s. 195(6) inserted by 2015 c. 20 s. 75(5)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 4 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 5(2)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 4 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 5(2)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 3 Table words omitted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 7
- Sch. 7 Pt. 3 para. 3 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 8(2)
- Sch. 7 Pt. 3 para. 3 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 8(2)
- Sch. 7 Pt. 6 para. 3 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 8(3)(b)(i)
- Sch. 9 Pt. 6 table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 9(2)
- Sch. 9 Pt. 6 Table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 9(2)
- Sch. 9 Pt. 8 para. 1(1) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 9(4)
- Sch. 9 Pt. 8 para. 1(1) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 9(4)
- Sch. 10 Pt. 4 para. 1(4) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 10(2)
- Sch. 10 Pt. 4 para. 1(4) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 10(2)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 5 para. 49(2) substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(4)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 5 para. 49(2) substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(4)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 6 para. 14 table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(5)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 6 para. 14 Table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(5)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 4 heading words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(3)
- Sch. 11 Pt. 4 heading words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 11(3)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 1 para. 8(b)(i) word omitted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(2)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 1 para. 8(b)(i) word omitted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(2)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 19 para. 10 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(3)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(a)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(i)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(iii)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 19 para. 10 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(3)

- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(a)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(i)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 12 Pt. 20 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 12(4)(b)(iii)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table word inserted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(b)(i)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 2 table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(2)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(d)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 8 para. 3(a) word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(5)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 2 Table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(2)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(d)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 8 para. 3(a) word substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(5)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table words inserted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(b)(iii)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(a)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(c)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 7 para. 1 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(4)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(a)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 6 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(3)(c)
- Sch. 13 Pt. 7 para. 1 words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 13(4)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 table word omitted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(d)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table word omitted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(d)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 1 para. 8(3)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(2)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(a)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(i)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(ii)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(iii)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 1 para. 8(3)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(2)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(a)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(b)(i)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(i)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(ii)
- Sch. 14 Pt. 2 Table words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 14(3)(c)(iii)
- Sch. 15 Pt. 4 para. 7(2) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 15
- Sch. 15 Pt. 4 para. 7(2) words substituted by S.I. 2017/1086 Pt. 1 reg. 15