



Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 33

PART XII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Prisons: powers in relation to prisoners, visitors and others

152 Powers of search by authorised employees in prisons.

(1) In the ^{M1}Prison Act 1952, after section 8, there shall be inserted the following section—

“8A Powers of search by authorised employees.

- (1) An authorised employee at a prison shall have the power to search any prisoner for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has any unauthorised property on his person.
- (2) An authorised employee searching a prisoner by virtue of this section—
 - (a) shall not be entitled to require a prisoner to remove any of his clothing other than an outer coat, jacket, headgear, gloves and footwear;
 - (b) may use reasonable force where necessary; and
 - (c) may seize and detain any unauthorised property found on the prisoner in the course of the search.
- (3) In this section “authorised employee” means an employee of a description for the time being authorised by the governor to exercise the powers conferred by this section.
- (4) The governor of a prison shall take such steps as he considers appropriate to notify to prisoners the descriptions of persons who are for the time being authorised to exercise the powers conferred by this section.

Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Section 152 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 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

- (5) In this section “unauthorised property”, in relation to a prisoner, means property which the prisoner is not authorised by prison rules or by the governor to have in his possession or, as the case may be, in his possession in a particular part of the prison.”
- (2) In the ^{M2}Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989, after section 41, there shall be inserted the following section—

“41A Powers of search by authorised employees.

- (1) An authorised employee at a prison shall have the power to search any prisoner for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has any unauthorised property on his person.
- (2) An authorised employee searching a prisoner by virtue of this section—
- (a) shall not be entitled to require a prisoner to remove any of his clothing other than an outer coat, jacket, headgear, gloves and footwear;
 - (b) may use reasonable force where necessary; and
 - (c) may seize and detain any unauthorised property found on the prisoner in the course of the search.
- (3) In this section “authorised employee” means an employee of a description for the time being authorised by the governor to exercise the powers conferred by this section.
- (4) The governor of a prison shall take such steps as he considers appropriate to notify to prisoners the descriptions of employees who are for the time being authorised employees.
- (5) In this section—
- “employee” means an employee (not being an officer of a prison) appointed under section 2(1) of this Act; and
- “unauthorised property”, in relation to a prisoner, means property which the prisoner is not authorised by rules under section 39 of this Act or by the governor to have in his possession or, as the case may be, in his possession in a particular part of the prison.”

Extent Information

E1 S. 152(1) extends to England and Wales only; s. 152(2) extends to Scotland only see s. 172(7)(13)

Marginal Citations

M1 1952 c. 52.

M2 1989 c. 45.

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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. 51(10)(a)(ia) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 36 para. 11\(3\)](#)