



# Knives Act 1997

## 1997 CHAPTER 21

### *The offences*

#### **1 Unlawful marketing of knives.**

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he markets a knife in a way which—
  - (a) indicates, or suggests, that it is suitable for combat; or
  - (b) is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving the use of the knife as a weapon.
- (2) “Suitable for combat” and “violent behaviour” are defined in section 10.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, an indication or suggestion that a knife is suitable for combat may, in particular, be given or made by a name or description—
  - (a) applied to the knife;
  - (b) on the knife or on any packaging in which it is contained; or
  - (c) included in any advertisement which, expressly or by implication, relates to the knife.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, a person markets a knife if—
  - (a) he sells or hires it;
  - (b) he offers, or exposes, it for sale or hire; or
  - (c) he has it in his possession for the purpose of sale or hire.
- [<sup>F1</sup>(5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years, or to a fine, or to both.]

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Knives Act 1997, Cross Heading: The offences. (See end of Document for details)*

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**Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 1(5) substituted (16.7.2008) by [The Criminal Justice \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1216\)](#), arts. 1(4), **90(8)**; S.R. 2008/293, art. 2, Sch. para. 14

**2 Publications.**

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he publishes any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of any knife and that material—
- (a) indicates, or suggests, that the knife is suitable for combat; or
  - (b) is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving the use of the knife as a weapon.
- [<sup>F2</sup>(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years, or to a fine, or to both.]

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**Textual Amendments**

- F2** S. 2(2) substituted (16.7.2008) by [The Criminal Justice \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1216\)](#), arts. 1(4), **90(9)**; S.R. 2008/293, art. 2, Sch. para. 14

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Knives Act 1997, Cross Heading: The offences.