



Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 9

PART 7 **U.K.**

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Trafficking people for exploitation

F¹109 Trafficking people for sexual exploitation **E+W**

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Textual Amendments

F1 S. 109 omitted (31.7.2015) by virtue of [Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 61(1), [Sch. 5 para. 9\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2015/1476](#), reg. 2(j) (with regs. 38)

Commencement Information

I1 S. 109 in force at 6.4.2013 by [S.I. 2013/470](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with arts. 3(a), 5-8)

F²110 Trafficking people for labour and other exploitation **E+W**

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Textual Amendments

F2 S. 110 omitted (31.7.2015) by virtue of [Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 61(1), [Sch. 5 para. 9\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2015/1476](#), reg. 2(j) (with regs. 38)

Commencement Information

I2 S. 110 in force at 6.4.2013 by [S.I. 2013/470](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#) (with arts. 3(a), 4-8)

Changes to legislation: Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Part 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 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

Stalking

111 Offences in relation to stalking **E+W**

(1) After section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (offence of harassment) insert—

“2A Offence of stalking

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if—
 - (a) the person pursues a course of conduct in breach of section 1(1), and
 - (b) the course of conduct amounts to stalking.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) (and section 4A(1)(a)) a person's course of conduct amounts to stalking of another person if—
 - (a) it amounts to harassment of that person,
 - (b) the acts or omissions involved are ones associated with stalking, and
 - (c) the person whose course of conduct it is knows or ought to know that the course of conduct amounts to harassment of the other person.
- (3) The following are examples of acts or omissions which, in particular circumstances, are ones associated with stalking—
 - (a) following a person,
 - (b) contacting, or attempting to contact, a person by any means,
 - (c) publishing any statement or other material—
 - (i) relating or purporting to relate to a person, or
 - (ii) purporting to originate from a person,
 - (d) monitoring the use by a person of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication,
 - (e) loitering in any place (whether public or private),
 - (f) interfering with any property in the possession of a person,
 - (g) watching or spying on a person.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or both.
- (5) In relation to an offence committed before the commencement of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the reference in subsection (4) to 51 weeks is to be read as a reference to six months.
- (6) This section is without prejudice to the generality of section 2.”

(2) After section 4 of that Act (putting people in fear of violence) insert—

“4A Stalking involving fear of violence or serious alarm or distress

- (1) A person (“A”) whose course of conduct—
 - (a) amounts to stalking, and
 - (b) either—

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- (i) causes another (“B”) to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against B, or
 - (ii) causes B serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on B's usual day-to-day activities,is guilty of an offence if A knows or ought to know that A's course of conduct will cause B so to fear on each of those occasions or (as the case may be) will cause such alarm or distress.
- (2) For the purposes of this section A ought to know that A's course of conduct will cause B to fear that violence will be used against B on any occasion if a reasonable person in possession of the same information would think the course of conduct would cause B so to fear on that occasion.
- (3) For the purposes of this section A ought to know that A's course of conduct will cause B serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on B's usual day-to-day activities if a reasonable person in possession of the same information would think the course of conduct would cause B such alarm or distress.
- (4) It is a defence for A to show that—
 - (a) A's course of conduct was pursued for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime,
 - (b) A's course of conduct was pursued under any enactment or rule of law or to comply with any condition or requirement imposed by any person under any enactment, or
 - (c) the pursuit of A's course of conduct was reasonable for the protection of A or another or for the protection of A's or another's property.
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
 - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or a fine, or both, or
 - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or both.
- (6) In relation to an offence committed before the commencement of section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the reference in subsection (5) (b) to twelve months is to be read as a reference to six months.
- (7) If on the trial on indictment of a person charged with an offence under this section the jury find the person not guilty of the offence charged, they may find the person guilty of an offence under section 2 or 2A.
- (8) The Crown Court has the same powers and duties in relation to a person who is by virtue of subsection (7) convicted before it of an offence under section 2 or 2A as a magistrates' court would have on convicting the person of the offence.
- (9) This section is without prejudice to the generality of section 4.”

Commencement Information

I3 S. 111 in force at 25.11.2012 by [S.I. 2012/2075](#), [art. 5\(a\)](#)

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112 Power of entry in relation to stalking **E+W**

After section 2A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (for which see section 111) insert—

“2B Power of entry in relation to offence of stalking

- (1) A justice of the peace may, on an application by a constable, issue a warrant authorising a constable to enter and search premises if the justice of the peace is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) an offence under section 2A has been, or is being, committed,
 - (b) there is material on the premises which is likely to be of substantial value (whether by itself or together with other material) to the investigation of the offence,
 - (c) the material—
 - (i) is likely to be admissible in evidence at a trial for the offence, and
 - (ii) does not consist of, or include, items subject to legal privilege, excluded material or special procedure material (within the meanings given by sections 10, 11 and 14 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984), and
 - (d) either—
 - (i) entry to the premises will not be granted unless a warrant is produced, or
 - (ii) the purpose of a search may be frustrated or seriously prejudiced unless a constable arriving at the premises can secure immediate entry to them.
- (2) A constable may seize and retain anything for which a search has been authorised under subsection (1).
- (3) A constable may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of any power conferred by virtue of this section.
- (4) In this section “premises” has the same meaning as in section 23 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.”

Commencement Information

I4 S. 112 in force at 25.11.2012 by [S.I. 2012/2075, art. 5\(b\)](#)

Miscellaneous repeals of enactments

113 Repeal of provisions for conducting certain fraud cases without jury **E+W**

Omit section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (applications by prosecution for certain fraud cases to be conducted without a jury).

114 Removal of restrictions on times for marriage or civil partnership **E+W**

- (1) In the Marriage Act 1949—

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- (a) omit section 4 (solemnization of marriages to take place at any time between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.), and
 - (b) omit section 75(1)(a) (offence of solemnizing a marriage outside the permitted hours).
- (2) In section 16(4) of the Marriage (Registrar General's Licence) Act 1970 (disapplication of certain provisions of the Act of 1949) for “sections 75(1)(a) and” substitute “ section ”.
- (3) In section 17(2) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (registration as civil partners under the standard procedure to take place on any day in the applicable period between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.)—
- (a) for “on any day in” substitute “ at any time during ”, and
 - (b) omit “between 8 o'clock in the morning and 6 o'clock in the evening”.
- (4) Omit section 31(2)(ab) of that Act (offence of officiating at the signing of a civil partnership schedule outside the permitted hours).

Commencement Information

I5 S. 114 in force at 1.10.2012 by [S.I. 2012/2234](#), [art. 3\(m\)](#)

General

115 Consequential amendments, repeals and revocations **U.K.**

- (1) Schedule 9 (consequential amendments) has effect.
- (2) The provisions listed in Schedule 10 are repealed or (as the case may be) revoked to the extent specified.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order make such provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate in consequence of this Act.
- (4) The power to make an order under subsection (3)—
 - (a) is exercisable by statutory instrument,
 - (b) includes power to make transitional, transitory or saving provision,
 - (c) may, in particular, be exercised by amending, repealing, revoking or otherwise modifying any provision made by or under an enactment (including any Act passed in the same Session as this Act).
- (5) Subject to subsection (6), a statutory instrument containing an order under this section is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (6) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section which neither amends nor repeals any provision of primary legislation is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (7) In this section—
 - “enactment” includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland legislation,
 - “primary legislation” means—

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- (a) a public general Act,
- (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
- (c) a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales, and
- (d) Northern Ireland legislation.

Commencement Information

- I6** S. 115 partly in force; s. 115(3)-(7) wholly in force at Royal Assent, s. 115(1)(2) in force at Royal Assent for certain purposes and s. 115(2) in force at 1.7.2012 for certain further purposes see s. 120(1)(4)(b)(5)(b)(c)
- I7** S. 115(1) in force at 1.7.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/1205, art. 3\(y\)](#)
- I8** S. 115(1) in force at 10.7.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/1205, art. 4\(i\)](#)
- I9** S. 115(1) in force at 10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157) for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2\(x\)](#)
- I10** S. 115(1) in force at 1.10.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2234, art. 3\(n\)](#)
- I11** S. 115(1) in force at 1.10.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2075, art. 3\(d\)](#)
- I12** S. 115(1) in force at 15.10.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2521, art. 2\(c\)](#)
- I13** S. 115(1) in force at 1.11.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2075, art. 4\(c\)](#)
- I14** S. 115(1) in force at 25.11.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2075, art. 5\(c\)](#)
- I15** S. 115(1) in force at 6.4.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/470, art. 2\(e\)](#) (with arts. 3(b), 5-8)
- I16** S. 115(1) in force at 17.6.2013 for specified purposes for E.W. by [S.I. 2013/1180, art. 2\(c\)](#)
- I17** S. 115(1) in force at 31.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3\(a\)](#)
- I18** S. 115(2) in force at 1.7.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/1205, art. 3\(z\)](#)
- I19** S. 115(2) in force at 10.7.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/1205, art. 4\(j\)](#)
- I20** S. 115(2) in force at 10.9.2012 immediately after the coming into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2157) for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2\(y\)](#)
- I21** S. 115(2) in force at 1.10.2012 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2012/2075, art. 3\(e\)](#)
- I22** S. 115(2) in force at 6.4.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/470, art. 2\(e\)](#) (with arts. 5-8)
- I23** S. 115(2) in force at 17.6.2013 for specified purposes for E.W. by [S.I. 2013/1180, art. 2\(d\)](#)
- I24** S. 115(2) in force at 31.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2013/2104, art. 3\(b\)](#)
- I25** S. 115(2) in force at 16.3.2015 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2015/587, art. 2\(b\)](#)

116 Transitional, transitory or saving provision **U.K.**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument make such transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate in connection with the coming into force of any provision of this Act (other than Chapter 1 of Part 1 and any Welsh provision).
- (2) The Welsh Ministers may by order made by statutory instrument make such transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate in connection with the coming into force of any Welsh provision.
- (3) In this section “Welsh provision” means any provision of this Act so far as it falls within section 120(3).

117 Financial provisions **U.K.**

- (1) There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament—

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- (a) any expenditure incurred by a Minister of the Crown by virtue of this Act, and
 - (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable by virtue of any other Act out of money so provided.
- (2) There is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund any sums received by a Minister of the Crown by virtue of this Act.

118 Channel Islands and Isle of Man U.K.

Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide for any of the provisions of—

- (a) Chapters 1 to 3 of Part 5 (and Parts 6 to 8 of Schedule 9 and Parts 5 and 6 of Schedule 10), or
- (b) section 110 (and Part 10 of Schedule 9, and Part 9 of Schedule 10, so far as relating to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004),

to extend, with or without modifications, to any of the Channel Islands or to the Isle of Man.

119 Extent U.K.

- (1) The following provisions extend to England and Wales only—
- (a) sections 1 to 18, 23 and 24,
 - (b) Chapter 2 of Part 1,
 - (c) Chapter 1 of Part 2,
 - (d) section 53 and Schedule 3,
 - (e) Chapter 2 of Part 3,
 - (e) Chapter 1 of Part 5 (excluding section 78 and Schedule 7),
 - (f) Chapter 2 of Part 5 (excluding section 86),
 - (g) Chapter 4 of Part 5,
 - (h) sections 109 to 114,
 - (i) Parts 4, 6, 7 and 9 to 12 of Schedule 9 (subject to subsections (2), (3), (5) and (8) (k) and (m)),
 - (j) Parts 3, 5, 6 and 9 to 11 of Schedule 10 (subject to subsections (3), (5) and (8) (m)), and
 - (k) any provision which extends to England and Wales only by virtue of subsection (6) or (7).
- (2) The following provisions extend to England and Wales and Scotland only—
- (a) paragraph 119(a) of Schedule 9,
 - (b) the repeal of section 22 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 in paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 9 and Part 1 of Schedule 10, and
 - (c) any provision which extends to England and Wales and Scotland only by virtue of subsection (6) or (7).
- (3) The following provisions extend to England and Wales and Northern Ireland only—
- (a) Part 2 of Schedule 1,
 - (b) Chapter 3 of Part 5 (excluding paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 8 and section 91),
 - (c) in Part 6 of Schedule 9 and Part 5 of Schedule 10, the amendments and repeals in respect of—

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- (i) the Police Act 1997 (excluding sections 113A(10) and 113B(13) of that Act), and
 - (ii) paragraph 14(7)(c) of Schedule 9 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and
 - (d) any provision which extends to England and Wales and Northern Ireland only by virtue of subsection (7).
- (4) The following provisions extend to Scotland only—
- (a) Part 5 of Schedule 1, and
 - (b) any provision which extends to Scotland only by virtue of subsection (7).
- (5) The following provisions extend to Northern Ireland only—
- (a) Part 6 of Schedule 1,
 - (b) section 63 and Schedule 6,
 - (c) section 78 and Schedule 7,
 - (d) in Part 6 of Schedule 9 and Part 5 of Schedule 10, the amendments, repeals and revocations in respect of—
 - (i) the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/1351 (N.I. 11)) and any order made under that Order,
 - (ii) Part 3 of Schedule 5 to the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments and Practitioner Psychologists) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1182), and
 - (iii) sections 90 and 92 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, and
 - (e) any provision which extends to Northern Ireland only by virtue of subsection (7).
- (6) The following provisions have the extent provided for in those provisions—
- (a) Schedule 2 (see each paragraph), and
 - (b) Part 2 of Schedule 10 (see the notes to that Part).
- (7) The amendments, repeals and revocations made by Parts 1 and 5 of Schedule 9 and Parts 1 and 4 of Schedule 10 have (subject to subsection (2)(b)) the same extent as the enactment amended, repealed or revoked.
- (8) The following provisions extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland—
- (a) sections 19 to 22 (excluding Parts 2, 5 and 6 of Schedule 1) and 25,
 - (b) Chapter 2 of Part 2,
 - (c) Chapter 1 of Part 3 (excluding section 53 and Schedules 2 and 3),
 - (d) Part 4 (excluding section 63 and Schedule 6),
 - (e) section 86,
 - (f) paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 8,
 - (g) section 91,
 - (h) Part 6,
 - (i) sections 115 to 117 (excluding Schedules 9 and 10), this section and sections 120 and 121,
 - (j) Parts 2, 3 and 8 of Schedule 9,
 - (k) the amendments of Schedule 1 to the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, and Schedule 5 to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, in Part 11 of Schedule 9,
 - (l) Parts 7 and 8 of Schedule 10,

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- (m) the repeal of section 330(5)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in Part 12 of Schedule 9 and Part 10 of Schedule 10, and
- (n) any provision which extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of subsection (6) or (7).

120 Commencement **U.K.**

- (1) Subject as follows, this Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint; and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (2) The provisions mentioned in subsection (3) come into force on such day as the Welsh Ministers may by order made by statutory instrument appoint; and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (3) The provisions are—
 - (a) Chapter 2 of Part 1 so far as relating to schools in Wales and further education institutions in Wales,
 - (b) sections 39(1), 40, 41 and 43 to 46 so far as they confer functions on the Welsh Ministers,
 - (c) section 53 and Schedule 3, and
 - (d) section 56 and Schedule 4 so far as relating to land in Wales.
- (4) The following provisions come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed—
 - (a) section 39(2) and Schedule 2, and
 - (b) Part 2 of Schedule 10 (and section 115(2) so far as relating to that Part of that Schedule).
- (5) The following provisions come into force on the day on which this Act is passed—
 - (a) sections 88 to 91,
 - (b) section 113, Part 12 of Schedule 9 and Part 10 of Schedule 10 (and section 115(1) and (2) so far as relating to those Parts of those Schedules), and
 - (c) sections 115(3) to (7) and 116 to 119, this section and section 121.

121 Short title **U.K.**

This Act may be cited as the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2234 art. 13 by [S.I. 2014/831 art. 2\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) transitional provisions and savings for commencing S.I. 2013/1814 by [S.I. 2013/1813 art. 2-9](#)

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):

- Sch. 1 para. 7A inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 20](#)