



# Modern Slavery Act 2015

## 2015 CHAPTER 30

### PART 1

#### OFFENCES

##### *Penalties and sentencing*

## 5 Penalties

- (1) A person guilty of an offence under section 1 or 2 is liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for life;
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F1</sup>the general limit in a magistrates' court] or a fine or both.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under section 4 is liable (unless subsection (3) applies)—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years;
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F2</sup>the general limit in a magistrates' court] or a fine or both.
- (3) Where the offence under section 4 is committed by kidnapping or false imprisonment, a person guilty of that offence is liable, on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for life.
- (4) In relation to an offence committed before [<sup>F3</sup>2 May 2022], the references in subsections (1)(b) and (2)(b) to [<sup>F4</sup>the general limit in a magistrates' court] are to be read as references to 6 months.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 5(1)(b) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/149\)](#), regs. 1(2), 2(1), [Sch. Pt. 1 table](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** *Modern Slavery Act 2015, Section 5 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 February 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*

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- F2** Words in s. 5(2)(b) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1 table**
- F3** Words in s. 5(4) substituted (28.4.2022) by The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 33) and Sentencing Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/500), regs. 1(2), 5(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**
- F4** Words in s. 5(4) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1 table**

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**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 5 in force at 31.7.2015 by S.I. 2015/1476, **reg. 2(a)**

**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. 50A(5A) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(1\)](#)