



# Serious Crime Act 2015

## 2015 CHAPTER 9

### PART 6

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

##### *Miscellaneous*

#### 78 Knives and offensive weapons in prisons

After section 40C of the Prison Act 1952 insert—

##### **“40CA Unauthorised possession in prison of knife or offensive weapon**

- (1) A person who, without authorisation, is in possession of an article specified in subsection (2) inside a prison is guilty of an offence.
- (2) The articles referred to in subsection (1) are—
  - (a) any article that has a blade or is sharply pointed;
  - (b) any other offensive weapon (as defined in section 1(9) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984).
- (3) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to show that—
  - (a) he reasonably believed that he had authorisation to be in possession of the article in question, or
  - (b) in all the circumstances there was an overriding public interest which justified his being in possession of the article.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years or to a fine (or both);
  - (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine (or both).

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (5) In this section “authorisation” means authorisation given for the purposes of this section; and subsections (1) to (3) of section 40E apply in relation to authorisations so given as they apply to authorisations given for the purposes of section 40D.”