



Firearms Act 1968

CHAPTER 27

FIREARMS ACT 1968

PART I

PROVISIONS AS TO POSSESSION, HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION; PREVENTION OF CRIME AND MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

General restrictions on possession and handling of firearms and ammunition

- 1 Requirement of firearm certificate.
- 2 Requirement of certificate for possession of shot guns.
- 3 Business and other transactions with firearms and ammunition.
- 4 Conversion of weapons.
- 4A Possession of articles for use in connection with conversion

Prohibition of certain weapons and control of arms traffic

- 5 Weapons subject to general prohibition.
- 5A Exemptions from requirement of authority under s.5.
- 6 Power to prohibit movement of arms and ammunition.

Special exemptions from sections 1 to 5

- 7 Police permit.
- 8 Authorised dealing with firearms.
- 9 Carriers, auctioneers, etc.
- 10 Slaughter of animals.
- 11 Sports, athletics and other approved activities.
- 11A Authorised lending and possession of firearms for hunting etc
- 12 Theatre and cinema.
- 13 Equipment for ships and aircraft.
- 14 Special exemptions from sections 1 to 5

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15 Holder of Northern Irish certificate.

Prevention of crime and preservation of public safety

- 16 Possession of firearm with intent to injure.
- 16A Possession of firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- 17 Use of firearm to resist arrest.
- 18 Carrying firearm with criminal intent.
- 19 Carrying firearm in a public place.
- 19A Having small-calibre pistol outside premises of licensed pistol club.
- 20 Trespassing with firearm.
- 21 Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.
- 21A Firing an air weapon beyond premises
- 22 Acquisition and possession of firearms by minors.
- 23 Exceptions from s. 22(4).
- 24 Supplying firearms to minors.
- 24ZA Failing to prevent minors from having air weapons
- 24A Supplying imitation firearms to minors
- 25 Supplying firearm to person drunk or insane.

PART II

FIREARM AND SHOT GUN CERTIFICATES; REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS DEALERS

Grant, renewal, variation and revocation of firearm and shot gun certificates

- 26A Applications for firearm certificates.
- 26B Applications for shot gun certificates.
- 26 Application for, and grant of, certificates.
- 27 Special provisions about firearm certificates.
- 27A Conditions for storage etc of certain firearms
- 28 Special provisions about shot gun certificates.
- 28A Certificates: supplementary.
- 28B Certificates: limited extension
- 29 Variation of firearm certificates.
- 30A Revocation of firearm certificates.
- 30B Partial revocation of firearm certificates.
- 30C Revocation of shot gun certificates.
- 30D Revocation of certificates: supplementary.
- 30 Revocation of certificates.
- 31 Certificate for prohibited weapon.
- 32 Fee for certificate and exemption from paying it in certain cases.
- 32ZA Fees in connection with authority under section 5

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- 32A Documents for European purposes.
- 32B Renewal of European firearms pass.
- 32C Variation, endorsement etc. of European documents.

Registration of firearms dealers

- 33 Police register.
- 34 Grounds for refusal of registration.
- 35 Fee for registration and renewal thereof.
- 36 Conditions of registration.

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- 37 Registration of new place of business.
- 38 Removal from register of dealer's name or place of business.
- 39 Offences in connection with registration.

Supplementary

- 40 Compulsory register of transactions in firearms.
- 41 Exemption from s. 40 in case of trade in shot gun components.
- 42 Firearm and Shot Gun Certificates; Registration of Firearms Dealers
- 42A Information as to transactions under visitors' permits.
- 42B Permitted electronic means
- 43 Power of Secretary of State to alter fees.
- 44 Appeals against police decisions.
- 45 Consequences where registered dealer convicted of offence.

PART III

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENCES

- 46 Power of search with warrant.
- 47 Powers of constables to stop and search.
- 48 Production of certificates.
- 49 Police powers in relation to arms traffic.
- 50 Special powers of arrest.
- 51 Prosecution and punishment of offences.
- 51A Minimum sentence for certain offences under s. 5
- 52 Forfeiture and disposal of firearms; cancellation of certificate by convicting court.

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- 53 Rules for implementing this Act.
- 54 Application of Parts I and II to Crown servants.
- 55 Exercise of police functions.
- 55A Guidance as to exercise of police functions
- 56 Service of notices
- 57 Interpretation.
- 57A Exception for airsoft guns
- 57B Power to amend section 57(1D)
- 58 Particular savings.
- 59 Repeals and general savings.
- 60 Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Offences to which section 17(2) applies

- 1 Offences under section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971....
- 2 Offences under any of the following provisions of the Offences...
- 2A Offences under Part I of the Child Abduction Act 1984...
- 3 Offences under such of the provisions of section 4 of...
- 4 Theft, robbery burglary, blackmail and any offence under section 12(1)...

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- 5 Offences under section 89(1) of the Police Act 1996 or...
- 5A An offence under section 90(1) of the Criminal Justice Act...
- 5B An offence under section 13(1) of the Criminal Justice and...
- 5C An offence under paragraph 4 of Schedule 11 to the...
- 6 Offences under any of the following provisions of the Sexual...
- 6A An offence under paragraph 14 or 24 of Schedule 10...
- 7 Offences to which section 17(2) applies
- 8 Aiding or abetting the commission of any offence specified in...
- 9 Attempting to commit any offence so specified,

SCHEDULE 2 — Offences to which sections 17(2) and 18 apply in Scotland

Common Law Offences

- 1 Abduction.
- 2 Administration of drugs with intent to enable or assist the...
- 3 Assault.
- 4 Housebreaking with intent to steal.
- 5 Malicious mischief.
- 6 Mobbing and rioting.
- 7 Perverting the course of justice.
- 8 Prison breaking and breaking into prison to rescue prisoners.
- 9 Rape.
- 10 Robbery.
- 11 Theft.
- 12 Use of threats with intent to extort money or property....
- 13 Wilful fireraising and culpable and reckless fireraising.

Statutory Offences

- 13A Offences against section 57 of the Civil Government (Scotland) Act...
- 13B An offence under paragraph 4 of Schedule 11 to the...
- 14 Offences against such of the provisions of section 4 of...
- 15 Offences against the third and fourth paragraphs of section 7...
- 16 Offences against sections 2, 3 or 4 of the Explosive...
- 17 Offences against section 175 of the Road Traffic Act 1972....
- 18 Offences against section 90 of the Police and Fire Reform...

Attempts

- 19 Attempt to commit any of the offences mentioned in this...

SCHEDULE 3 — Jurisdiction and Procedure on application under section 21(6)

Part I — APPLICATION TO THE CROWN COURT (ENGLAND AND WALES)

- 1
- 2 Notice of the application, signed by the applicant or by...
- 3 On receiving notice of the application the appropriate officer of...
- 4 The applicant may at any time, not less than two...
- 5 The chief officer of police may appear and be heard...
- 6 The court may from time to time adjourn the hearing...
- 7 On the determination of the application, the court may make...

Part II — APPLICATION TO SHERIFF (SCOTLAND)

- 8 The application shall be made to the sheriff within whose...
- 9 Not less than twenty-one days' notice of the application shall...

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SCHEDULE 4 — Particulars to be Entered by Firearms Dealer in Register of Transactions

- 1 The quantities and description of firearms and ammunition manufactured and...
- 2 The quantities and description of firearms and ammunition purchased or...
- 3 The quantities and description of firearms and ammunition accepted for...
- 4 The quantities and description of firearms and ammunition sold or...
- 5 The quantities and description of firearms and ammunition in possession...

PART 1 — PARTICULARS RELATING TO FIREARMS (OTHER THAN AIR WEAPONS) AND AMMUNITION

PART 2 — PARTICULARS RELATING TO AIR WEAPONS

Note: in this Part “air weapon” includes any component of, or accessory to, an air weapon.

- 1 The quantities and description of air weapons purchased or acquired...
- 2 The quantities and description of air weapons sold or transferred...
- 3 The quantities and description of air weapons in possession for...

SCHEDULE 5 — Provisions as to Appeals under s. 44 of this Act

Part I — COURTS WITH JURISDICTION TO ENTERTAIN APPEAL

Part II — PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS FOR APPEAL TO THE CROWN COURT

- 1 Notice of an appeal, signed by the appellant or by...
- 2 A notice of appeal shall be given within twenty-one days...
- 3 On receiving notice of an appeal the appropriate officer of...
- 4 An appellant may at any time, not less than two...
- 5 The chief officer of police may appear and be heard...
- 6
- 7 On the hearing of an appeal the court may either...
- 8

Part III — APPEALS IN SCOTLAND

- 1 An appeal to the sheriff shall be by way of...
- 2 An application shall be made within 21 days after the...
- 3 On the hearing of the appeal the sheriff may either...
- 4 The decision of the sheriff on an appeal may be...

SCHEDULE 6 — Prosecution and Punishment of Offences

Part I — TABLE OF PUNISHMENTS

Part II — SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS AS TO TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENCES

- 1
- 2 In the case of an offence against section 6(3) or...
- 3 (1) Where in England or Wales a person who has...
- 4 Where a person commits an offence under section 17(1) of...
- 5 If on the trial of a person for an offence...
- 6 The punishment to which a person is liable for an...
- 7 The court by which a person is convicted of an...
- 8 The court by which a person is convicted of an...
- 9 The court by which a person is convicted of an...

SCHEDULE 7. — Repeals

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 10(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2014/2124 reg. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 19A added by [1997 c. 5 s. 11\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 11 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- s. 19A restricted by [1997 c. 5 s. 13\(8\)\(10\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 13 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- s. 23(2)(b) words substituted by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 43 extended by [1997 c. 5 s. 21\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 21 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- s. 50(2) substituted (prosp.) by [1997 c. 5 s. 52\(1\)Sch. 2 para. 9](#)
- s. 51A(1)(a)(i) words inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 54\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 54(6) repealed (1.12.2020) without ever being in force by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), Sch. 29 (with ss. 413(4), 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- s. 51A(1)(a)(iii) words inserted by [2019 c. 17 s. 54\(6\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 54(6) repealed (1.12.2020) without ever being in force by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), Sch. 29 (with ss. 413(4), 416(7), Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2)
- s. 52(1)(a) words repealed by [2000 c. 43 Sch. 8](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(7\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 20\(10\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amended by [1997 c. 5 s. 12\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 12 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 3A inserted by [2023 c. 49 s. 2](#)
- s. 11(3A)-(4A) substituted for s. 11(4) by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 51(2A) added by [1997 c. 48 s. 62\(1\)Sch. 1 para. 3](#)