



Crossbows Act 1987

1987 CHAPTER 32

An Act to create offences relating to the sale and letting on hire of crossbows to, and the purchase, hiring and possession of crossbows by, persons under the age of seventeen; and for connected purposes. [15th May 1987]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Sale and letting on hire.

A person who sells or lets on hire a crossbow or a part of a crossbow to a person under the age of seventeen is guilty of an offence, unless he believes him to be seventeen years of age or older and has reasonable ground for the belief.

2 Purchase and hiring.

A person under the age of seventeen who buys or hires a crossbow or a part of a crossbow is guilty of an offence.

3 Possession.

A person under the age of seventeen who has with him—

- (a) a crossbow which is capable of discharging a missile, or
- (b) parts of a crossbow which together (and without any other parts) can be assembled to form a crossbow capable of discharging a missile,

is guilty of an offence, unless he is under the supervision of a person who is twenty-one years of age or older.

4 Powers of search and seizure etc.

- (1) If a constable suspects with reasonable cause that a person is committing or has committed an offence under section 3, the constable may—
 - (a) search that person for a crossbow or part of a crossbow;
 - (b) search any vehicle, or anything in or on a vehicle, in or on which the constable suspects with reasonable cause there is a crossbow, or part of a crossbow, connected with the offence.
- (2) A constable may detain a person or vehicle for the purpose of a search under subsection (1).
- (3) A constable may seize and retain for the purpose of proceedings for an offence under this Act anything discovered by him in the course of a search under subsection (1) which appears to him to be a crossbow or part of a crossbow.
- (4) For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by this section a constable may enter any land other than a dwelling-house.

5 Exception.

This Act does not apply to crossbows with a draw weight of less than 1.4 kilograms.

6 Punishments.

- (1) A person guilty of an offence under section 1 shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under section 2 or 3 shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (3) The court by which a person is convicted of an offence under this Act may make such order as it thinks fit as to the forfeiture or disposal of any crossbow or part of a crossbow in respect of which the offence was committed.

7 Corresponding provision for Northern Ireland.

An Order in Council under paragraph 1(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (legislation for Northern Ireland in the interim period) which contains a statement that it is made only for purposes corresponding to the purposes of this Act—

- (a) shall not be subject to paragraph 1(4) and (5) of that Schedule (affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament), but
- (b) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

8 Short title, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Crossbows Act 1987.
- (2) Sections 1 to 6 shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Sections 1 to 6 shall not extend to Northern Ireland.