



Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 5

PART II

THE VIENNA CONVENTION

Offences at sea

18 Offences on British ships.

Anything which would constitute a drug trafficking offence if done on land in any part of the United Kingdom shall constitute that offence if done on a British ship.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Ss. 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-30, 32, Schs. 1-3 extended (with modifications) (to Anguilla) (14.7.1994) by S.I. 1994/1635, art. 2, **Sch. 1**

Commencement Information

II S. 18 wholly in force at 1.7.1991 see s. 32(2) and S.I. 1991/1072, art. 2(b), **Schedule Pt. II**

19 Ships used for illicit traffic.

- (1) This section applies to a British ship, a ship registered in a state other than the United Kingdom which is a party to the Vienna Convention (a “Convention state”) and a ship not registered in any country or territory.
- (2) A person is guilty of an offence if on a ship to which this section applies, wherever it may be, he—
 - (a) has a controlled drug in his possession; or

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990, Cross Heading: Offences at sea. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) is in any way knowingly concerned in the carrying or concealing of a controlled drug on the ship,
 knowing or having reasonable grounds to suspect that the drug is intended to be imported or has been exported contrary to section 3(1) of the ^{M1}Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or the law of any state other than the United Kingdom.
- (3) A certificate purporting to be issued by or on behalf of the government of any state to the effect that the importation or export of a controlled drug is prohibited by the law of that state shall be evidence, and in Scotland sufficient evidence, of the matters stated.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
- (a) in a case where the controlled drug is a Class A drug—
 - (i) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
 - (ii) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for life or a fine or both;
 - (b) in a case where the controlled drug is a Class B drug [^{F1}or a temporary class drug]—
 - (i) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
 - (ii) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years or a fine or both;
 - (c) in a case where the controlled drug is a Class C drug—
 - (i) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
 - (ii) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [^{F2}fourteen years] or a fine or both.
- (5) In this section “a controlled drug” and the references to controlled drugs of a specified Class have the same meaning as in the said Act of 1971; and an offence under this section shall be included in the offences to which section 28 of that Act (defences) applies.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 19 inserted (15.11.2011) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\)](#), s. 157(1), [Sch. 17 para. 22](#); [S.I. 2011/2515](#), art. 3(g)
- F2** Words in s. 19(4)(c)(ii) substituted (29.1.2004) by [Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(c. 44\)](#), s. 336(3)(4), [Sch. 28 para. 3](#); [S.I. 2004/81](#), art. 4(1)(2)(k)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-30, 32, Schs. 1-3 extended (with modifications) (to Anguilla) (14.7.1994) by [S.I. 1994/1635](#), art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)

Commencement Information

- I2** S. 19 wholly in force at 1.7.1991 see s. 32(2) and [S.I. 1991/1072](#), art. 2(b), [Schedule Pt. II](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1971 c. 38](#).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990, Cross Heading: Offences at sea. (See end of Document for details)

20 Enforcement powers.

- (1) The powers conferred on an enforcement officer by Schedule 3 to this Act shall be exercisable in relation to any ship to which section 18 or 19 above applies for the purpose of detecting and the taking of appropriate action in respect of the offences mentioned in those sections.
- ^{F3}(2) Those powers shall not be exercised outside the landward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom in relation to a ship registered in a Convention state except with the authority of the [^{F3}Commissioners of Customs and Excise]; and [^{F3}they] shall not give [^{F3}their] authority unless that state has in relation to that ship—
 - (a) requested the assistance of the United Kingdom for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1) above; or
 - (b) authorised the United Kingdom to act for that purpose.
- (3) In giving [^{F3}their] authority pursuant to a request or authorisation from a Convention state the [^{F3}Commissioners of Customs and Excise] shall impose such conditions or limitations on the exercise of the powers as may be necessary to give effect to any conditions or limitations imposed by that state.
- (4) The [^{F3}Commissioners of Customs and Excise] may, either of [^{F3}their] own motion or in response to a request from a Convention state, authorise a Convention state to exercise, in relation to a British ship, powers corresponding to those conferred on enforcement officers by Schedule 3 to this Act but subject to such conditions or limitations, if any, as [^{F3}they] may impose.
- (5) Subsection (4) above is without prejudice to any agreement made, or which may be made, on behalf of the United Kingdom whereby the United Kingdom undertakes not to object to the exercise by any other state in relation to a British ship of powers corresponding to those conferred by that Schedule.
- (6) The powers conferred by that Schedule shall not be exercised in the territorial sea of any state other than the United Kingdom without the authority of the [^{F3}Commissioners of Customs and Excise] and [^{F3}they] shall not give [^{F3}their] authority unless that state has consented to the exercise of those powers.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 20 substituted (1.12.1993) by 1993 c. 36, s. 23(2)(a) (with s. 78(6)); S.I. 1993/2734, art. 2, Sch.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 20: transfer of functions (1.12.1993) by 1993 c. 36, s. 23(1) (with s. 78(6)); S.I. 1993/2734, art. 2, Sch.
- C4** Ss. 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-30, 32, Schs. 1-3 extended (with modifications) (to Anguilla) (14.7.1994) by S.I. 1994/1635, art.2, Sch. 1

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 20 wholly in force at 1.7.1991 see s. 32(2) and S.I. 1991/1072, art. 2(b), Schedule Pt. II

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990, Cross Heading: Offences at sea. (See end of Document for details)

21 Jurisdiction and prosecutions.

- (1) Proceedings under this Part of this Act or Schedule 3 in respect of an offence on a ship may be taken, and the offence may for all incidental purposes be treated as having been committed, in any place in the United Kingdom.
- (2) No such proceedings shall be instituted—
 - (a) in England or Wales except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions ^{F4}...
 - (b) in Northern Ireland except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland or those Commissioners.
- (3) Without prejudice to subsection (2) above no proceedings for an offence under section 19 above alleged to have been committed outside the landward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom on a ship registered in a Convention state shall be instituted except in pursuance of the exercise with the authority of the [^{F5}Commissioners of Customs and Excise] of the powers conferred by Schedule 3 to this Act; and section 3 of the ^{M2}Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act 1878 (consent of Secretary of State for certain prosecutions) shall not apply to those proceedings.

Textual Amendments

- F4** Words in s. 21(2)(a) omitted (27.3.2014) by virtue of [The Public Bodies \(Merger of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/834\)](#), art. 1(1), [Sch. 2 para. 8](#)
- F5** Words in s. 21(3) substituted (1.12.1993) by [1993 c. 36, s. 23\(2\)\(b\)](#) (with s. 78(6)); [S.I. 1993/2734](#), [art. 2](#), Sch.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** S. 21 extended (with modifications) (to Anguilla) (14.7.1994) by [S.I. 1994/1635](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#).

Commencement Information

- I4** S. 21 wholly in force at 1.7.1991 see s. 32(2) and [S.I. 1991/1072](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#), [Schedule Pt. II](#)

Marginal Citations

- M2** [1878 c. 73](#).

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990, Cross Heading: Offences at sea.