



Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001

2001 CHAPTER 3

PART 2

REGULATION OF REGISTRATION PLATE SUPPLIERS

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 2 extended (Scotland and Northern Ireland) (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), ss. 46\(1\), 61\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2](#) (with art. 3)

Registration

17 Requirement of registration for registration plate suppliers

- (1) Any person who carries on business as a registration plate supplier ^{F1}... without being registered by the Secretary of State shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part a person carries on business as a registration plate supplier if he—
 - (a) carries on a business which consists wholly or partly in selling registration plates; and
 - (b) is not an exempt person.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide for—
 - (a) activities of a prescribed description to be treated for the purposes of this Part as not being activities which consist in selling registration plates;
 - (b) persons of a prescribed description to be exempt persons for the purposes of this Part.
- (4) In this Part “registered” means registered in accordance with the provisions of this Part in a register established and maintained by the Secretary of State under section 18; and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly.

Changes to legislation: Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 17(1) repealed (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), ss. 46(3), 61(1), [Sch. 7\(15\)](#); [S.I. 2008/1864](#), art. 2

Commencement Information

- II** S. 17 wholly in force; s. 17 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002, s. 17(3)-(4) otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 and s. 17(1) otherwise in force at 1.3.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}, {4}

18 Register of registration plate suppliers

- (1) The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain a register of persons carrying on business as registration plate suppliers.
- (2) Each person's entry in the register shall contain such particulars as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall, subject to subsection (6) and such fee (if any) as may be prescribed, supply any person who has requested information contained in the register with the information that he has requested.
- (4) If the request is for information in the form of a copy (certified to be true) of the register or of an extract from it, the Secretary of State shall, subject to subsection (6) and such fee (if any) as may be prescribed, supply the information in that form.
- (5) Any such certified copy shall be evidence [^{F2}(or, in Scotland, sufficient evidence)] of the matters mentioned in it.
- (6) The Secretary of State may by regulations specify—
 - (a) descriptions of persons who are not entitled to be supplied with information under subsection (3); and
 - (b) descriptions of information which shall not be supplied under that subsection.
- (7) The Secretary of State may make all of the information contained in the register or information so contained of a particular description available ^{F3}... for use by constables for the purpose of investigating offences under this Part.
- (8) The Secretary of State may by regulations determine the circumstances in which any of the information to which constables have been given access under subsection (7) may be further disclosed by them.
- [^{F4}(9) In this section, “constables” includes—
 - [^{F5}(a) members of the civilian staff of a police force, including the metropolitan police force, (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011),
 - (aa) persons employed by the Common Council of the City of London who are under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Police for the City of London,]
 - [^{F6}(b) police staff within the meaning of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, and]
 - (c) persons employed by the British Transport Police Authority under section 27(1) of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 who are under

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the direction and control of the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police Force.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 18(5) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 46(4)**, 61(1); S.I. 2008/1864, **art. 2**
- F3** Words in s. 18(7) omitted (7.10.2013) by virtue of [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 61(2), **Sch. 8 para. 106**; S.I. 2013/1682, **art. 3(v)**
- F4** S. 18(9) inserted (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), **ss. 123(2)**, 178(8); S.I. 2005/1521, **art. 3(1)(k)**
- F5** S. 18(9)(a)(aa) substituted (16.1.2012) for s. 18(9)(a) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\)](#), s. 157(1), **Sch. 16 para. 275**; S.I. 2011/3019, **art. 3**, **Sch. 1**
- F6** S. 18(9)(b) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012 \(Consequential Provisions and Modifications\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/602\)](#), **art. 1(2)**, **Sch. 2 para. 36**

Commencement Information

- I2** S. 18 wholly in force; s. 18 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 18 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}

19 Applications for registration

- (1) An application for registration—
- shall be made to the Secretary of State in accordance with such requirements as may be prescribed; and
 - shall be accompanied by a fee of such amount (if any) as may be prescribed.
- (2) The level of fees so prescribed may be set with a view to recovering the reasonable costs incurred by the Secretary of State in connection with the administration of this Part.
- (3) A person who, in making an application for registration—
- makes a statement which he knows to be false in a material particular; or
 - recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular;
- shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (4) Where an order under section 20(1)(b) has effect in relation to a person who has been convicted of an offence under subsection (3), no application for registration shall be made by that person under subsection (1) in contravention of the order.
- (5) No application for registration shall be made under subsection (1) by a person while his registration is suspended by an order of a court under section 20(2).
- (6) A person who makes an application in contravention of subsection (4) or (5) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (7) The Secretary of State shall, on receiving an application under subsection (1), register the applicant.

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Commencement Information

- I3** S. 19 wholly in force; s. 19 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 19 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

20 Removal or suspension of registration by a court

- (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under section 19(3) the court before which he is convicted may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, by order do either or both of the following—
 - (a) provide for the removal of any entry relating to him in the register;
 - (b) prohibit him from making an application for registration under section 19(1) within such period not exceeding five years as may be specified in, or determined under, the order.
- (2) Where a registered person is convicted of an offence under this Part (other than an offence under section 19(3)) the court before which he is convicted may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, by order suspend his registration for any period of up to five years.
- (3) No order under subsection (1) or (2) shall have effect—
 - (a) if no appeal is brought, before the end of the period for bringing an appeal has passed;
 - (b) if an appeal is brought, before the final determination or withdrawal of the appeal.
- (4) A court shall give notice to the Secretary of State of the contents of any order which has been made by it under subsection (1) or (2) and which has effect.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall amend the register—
 - (a) to give effect to any order of a court under subsection (1)(a); or
 - (b) to reflect any suspension effected by an order of a court under subsection (2); but may not do so until the order concerned has effect.
- (6) In this section “appeal” includes an application under section 111 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (c. 43) [^{F7}or Article 146 of the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981] (application by way of case stated).

Textual Amendments

- F7** Words in s. 20(6) inserted (31.7.2008) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), ss. 46(5), 61(1); S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2

Commencement Information

- I4** S. 20 wholly in force; s. 20 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 20 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

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21 Cancellation of registration by the Secretary of State

- (1) The Secretary of State may cancel a person's registration if he is satisfied that the person concerned is not carrying on business as a registration plate supplier and has not, while registered, been doing so for at least 28 days.
- (2) A cancellation under subsection (1) shall not have effect—
 - (a) if no appeal is brought under section 23, before the end of the period of 21 days mentioned in subsection (2) of that section;
 - (b) if an appeal is brought under that section, before the final determination or withdrawal of the appeal.
- (3) This section is subject to section 22.

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 21 wholly in force; s. 21 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 21 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

22 Right to make representations: Part 2

- (1) The Secretary of State shall not cancel a person's registration under section 21 unless the Secretary of State has complied with the provisions of this section.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall serve a notice on the person concerned stating—
 - (a) what he is proposing to do;
 - (b) the reasons for it; and
 - (c) the period (not less than 14 days starting with the date of service of the notice) within which the person concerned may by notice—
 - (i) require the Secretary of State to give him an opportunity to make representations about the proposal; or
 - (ii) inform the Secretary of State that he does not wish to make any such representations.
- (3) Where a notice has been served by the Secretary of State under subsection (2), the Secretary of State shall not proceed with his proposed cancellation until—
 - (a) the person concerned has made representations about it or informed the Secretary of State that he does not wish to make any such representations;
 - (b) the period mentioned in subsection (2)(c) has passed without the Secretary of State being required to give the person concerned an opportunity to make representations or without the Secretary of State being informed that the person concerned does not wish to make any representations; or
 - (c) the conditions specified in subsection (4) are satisfied.
- (4) The conditions are that—
 - (a) the person concerned has required the Secretary of State to give him an opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State about the proposal;
 - (b) the Secretary of State has allowed that person a reasonable period to make his representations; and
 - (c) the person concerned has failed to make his representations within that period.

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- (5) The representations may be made orally or in writing.
- (6) If the person concerned informs the Secretary of State that he desires to make oral representations, the Secretary of State shall give that person an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (7) If the Secretary of State decides to proceed with his proposed cancellation, he shall serve a notice on the person concerned informing him of the Secretary of State's decision to proceed and of the cancellation.
- (8) A notice under subsection (7) shall also inform the person concerned of—
 - (a) his right to appeal under section 23 against the cancellation;
 - (b) the time within which such an appeal may be brought; and
 - (c) the date on which the cancellation is to have effect.

Commencement Information

- I6** S. 22 wholly in force; s. 22 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 22 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

[^{F8}23 Appeals: Part 2

- (1) An appeal against the cancellation by the Secretary of State under section 21 of a person's registration may be brought—
 - (a) in England and Wales, to a magistrates' court,
 - (b) in Scotland, to the sheriff, or
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, to a court of summary jurisdiction.
- (2) An appeal under subsection (1) shall be brought within the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the person concerned is served with a notice under section 22(7).
- (3) The procedure on an appeal under subsection (1)—
 - (a) in England and Wales, is to be by way of complaint for an order and in accordance with the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980,
 - (b) in Scotland, is to be by way of summary application to the sheriff, and
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, is to be by way of notice under Part 7 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.
- (4) For the purposes of the time limit for bringing an appeal under subsection (1) the appeal is to be treated as brought—
 - (a) in England and Wales, on the making of the complaint,
 - (b) in Scotland, on the lodging of the summary application with the sheriff clerk, and
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, when a notice is served on the clerk of the petty sessions under Article 76(2)(a) of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.
- (5) A party to an appeal to the sheriff under subsection (1) may further appeal, on a point of law only, to the sheriff principal or the Court of Session; and the decision on such an appeal is final.

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- (6) On an appeal under subsection (1) or (5), the court may confirm, vary or reverse the decision appealed against and generally give such directions as it considers appropriate having regard to the provisions of this Part.
- (7) The Secretary of State must comply with any directions given by a court under this section.
- (8) But the Secretary of State need not do so until—
 - (a) in England and Wales, the time for making an application under section 111 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (application by way of case stated),
 - (b) in Scotland, the time for lodging an appeal under subsection (5), or
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, the time for making an application under Article 146 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (application by way of case stated),has passed.
- (9) And if such an application or appeal is made or lodged, he need not do so until the final determination or withdrawal of the appeal or application.]

Textual Amendments

F8 S. 23 substituted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 46(6), 61(1)**; [S.I. 2008/1864](#), art. 2

Commencement Information

I7 S. 23 wholly in force; s. 23 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 23 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}

Keeping of records etc.

24 Keeping of records: Part 2

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide for the keeping of records by registered persons.
- (2) In subsection (1) “registered” includes formerly registered.
- (3) Regulations under this section may specify provisions of the regulations as provisions to which subsection (4) applies.
- (4) A person who contravenes any provision to which this subsection applies shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (5) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (4) it shall be a defence for the accused to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 24(4) applied (1.3.2003) by SI 2002/2977 reg. 7(3) (as amended by [Vehicles Crime \(Registration of Registration Plate Suppliers\) \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/228\)](#), regs. 1, 2)
- C3** S. 24(4) applied (1.8.2008) by [Vehicles Crime \(Registration of Registration Plate Suppliers\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1715\)](#), regs. 1, **7(6)**

Commencement Information

- I8** S. 24 wholly in force; s. 24 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002, s. 24(1)-(3) otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 and s. 24(4)(5) otherwise in force at 1.3.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}, {4}

25 Provision of information on sale of registration plates

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide for the obtaining by registered persons who are in the course of selling registration plates of information of a prescribed description from their prospective purchasers before the completion of the sale.
- (2) Regulations under this section may specify provisions of the regulations as provisions to which subsection (3) applies.
- (3) A person who contravenes any provision to which this subsection applies shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (4) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (3) it shall be a defence for the accused to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** S. 25(3) applied (1.8.2008) by [Vehicles Crime \(Registration of Registration Plate Suppliers\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1715\)](#), regs. 1, **6(10)**

Commencement Information

- I9** S. 25 wholly in force; s. 25 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002, s. 25(1)(2) otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 and s. 25(3)(4) otherwise in force at 1.3.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}, {4}

Supplementary provisions and offences

26 Rights to enter and inspect premises: Part 2

- (1) A constable or an authorised person may at any reasonable time enter and inspect premises for the time being entered in the register as premises which are occupied by a person carrying on business as a registration plate supplier wholly or partly for the purposes of his business so far as it consists in selling registration plates.
- (2) A constable or an authorised person may at any reasonable time—

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- (a) require production of, and inspect, any registration plates kept at premises falling within subsection (1); and
 - (b) require production of, inspect and take copies of or extracts from any records which the person carrying on business as a registration plate supplier is required to keep at such premises by virtue of this Part.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies where, on an application made by a constable or an authorised person, a justice of the peace [F9, or (in Scotland) a justice of the peace, magistrate or sheriff,] is satisfied that admission to premises specified in the application is reasonably required in order to secure compliance with the provisions of this Part, or to ascertain whether those provisions are being complied with.
- (4) The justice [F10 of the peace, magistrate or sheriff] may issue a warrant authorising a constable or (as the case may be) an authorised person to enter and inspect the premises concerned.
- (5) A constable or an authorised person—
- (a) shall not be entitled to use force to enter premises in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1); but
 - (b) may, if necessary, use reasonable force in the exercise of his powers under a warrant issued under subsection (4).
- (6) A constable or an authorised person in seeking to enter any premises in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1), and an authorised person in seeking to enter any premises in the exercise of his powers under a warrant issued under subsection (4), shall, if required by or on behalf of the owner or occupier or person in charge of the premises, produce evidence of his identity, and of his authority for entering, before doing so.
- (7) Any person who obstructs an authorised person in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1) or (2) or under a warrant issued under subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.
- (8) In this section “an authorised person” means a person authorised for the purposes of this [F11] section—
- (a) by the Secretary of State, or
 - (b) [F12 (except in Northern Ireland)] by a local authority in respect of premises situated in the area of the local authority.]

Textual Amendments

- F9** Words in s. 26(3) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), ss. 46\(7\)\(a\), 61\(1\); S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2](#)
- F10** Words in s. 26(4) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), ss. 46\(7\)\(b\), 61\(1\); S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2](#)
- F11** Words in s. 26(8) substituted (16.3.2007 for E.W.) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), ss. 44\(2\), 61\(1\); S.I. 2007/466, art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F12** Words in s. 26(8) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\), ss. 46\(7\)\(c\), 61\(1\); S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2](#)

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Commencement Information

I10 S. 26 wholly in force; s. 26 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 26 otherwise in force at 1.3.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {4}

27 Notification requirements: Part 2

- (1) A person applying to be registered in the register shall give notice to the Secretary of State of any changes affecting in a material particular the accuracy of the information which he has provided in connection with his application.
- (2) A registered person shall give notice to the Secretary of State of any changes affecting his entry in the register within 28 days of the changes occurring; and the Secretary of State shall amend the register accordingly.
- (3) A registered person who is not carrying on business as a registration plate supplier shall give notice to the Secretary of State of that fact within 28 days of the beginning of the period in which he is not carrying on business while registered.
- (4) A person who fails to give notice to the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (5) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (4) it shall be a defence for the accused to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.

Commencement Information

I11 S. 27 wholly in force; s. 27 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 27 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}

28 Offences relating to ^{F13} plates etc.]

- (1) A person who sells a plate or other device which is not a ^{F14}vehicle] registration plate as a ^{F14}vehicle] registration plate knowing that it is not a ^{F14}vehicle] registration plate or being reckless as to whether it is a ^{F14}vehicle] registration plate shall be guilty of an offence.
- ^{F15}(1ZA) A person who sells a plate or other device which is not a trailer registration plate as a trailer registration plate knowing that it is not a trailer registration plate or being reckless as to whether it is a trailer registration plate shall be guilty of an offence.]
- ^{F16}(1A) A person who sells a plate or other device which is not a ^{F17}vehicle] registration plate only because the registration mark displayed by it—
 - (a) does not comply with regulations under paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 23 of the 1994 Act, or
 - (b) is displayed otherwise than in accordance with regulations under paragraph (b) of that subsection,
 (or both) shall be guilty of an offence.]

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- [^{F18}(1AA) A person who sells a plate or other device which is not a trailer registration plate only because the registration mark displayed by it—
- (a) does not comply with regulations made by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 15 of the 2018 Act, or
 - (b) is displayed otherwise than in accordance with regulations made by virtue of paragraph (c) and (d)(i) of that subsection,
- (or both) shall be guilty of an offence.]
- [^{F16}(1B) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that the offence under subsection (1A) [^{F19}or (1AA)] is not committed in circumstances prescribed by the regulations.]
- (2) A person who—
 - (a) supplies a plate, device or other object to a person who is carrying on a business which consists wholly or partly in activities which are unlawful by virtue of subsection (1)[^{F20}, (1ZA), (1A) or (1AA)]; and
 - (b) knows or reasonably suspects that the plate, device or other object will be used for the purposes of that other person's unlawful activities;shall be guilty of an offence.
 - (3) A person guilty of an offence under [^{F21}this section] shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

Textual Amendments

- F13** Words in s. 28 heading substituted (1.11.2008 for E.W.) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), ss. 45(7), 61(1); S.I. 2008/1862, arts. 2, 4
- F14** Word in s. 28(1) inserted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(3)
- F15** S. 28(1ZA) inserted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(4)
- F16** S. 28(1A)(1B) inserted (1.11.2008 for E.W.) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), ss. 45(4), 61(1); S.I. 2008/1862, arts. 2, 4
- F17** Word in s. 28(1A) inserted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(5)
- F18** S. 28(1AA) inserted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(6)
- F19** Words in s. 28(1B) inserted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(7)
- F20** Words in s. 28(2)(a) substituted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(8)
- F21** Words in s. 28(3) substituted (1.11.2008 for E.W.) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), ss. 45(6), 61(1); S.I. 2008/1862, arts. 2, 4

Commencement Information

- I12** S. 28 wholly in force; s. 28 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 28 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

Changes to legislation: Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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

29 Offence of supplying plates etc. to unregistered persons

- (1) A person who—
- (a) supplies a plate, device or other object to an unregistered person (other than an exempt person) who is carrying on a business which consists wholly or partly in selling registration plates; and
 - (b) knows or reasonably suspects that the plate, device or other object will be used for the purposes of that other person's business (or part of his business) as a registration plate or as part of a registration plate;
- shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Commencement Information

I13 S. 29 wholly in force; s. 29 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 29 otherwise in force at 1.3.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {4}

General

30 Proceedings for offences under Part 2

- [^{F22}(1)] Proceedings for an offence under this Part shall not be instituted [^{F23}in England and Wales] except—
- (a) by [^{F24}the Secretary of State,] a local authority or a constable; or
 - (b) in any other case, with the consent of the Attorney General.
- [^{F25}(2)] Proceedings for an offence under this Part shall not be instituted in Northern Ireland except—
- (a) by the Secretary of State or a constable; or
 - (b) in any other case, with the consent of the Advocate General for Northern Ireland.
- (3) In relation to any time before the coming into force of section 27(1) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, the reference in subsection (2)(b) to the Advocate General for Northern Ireland is to be read as a reference to the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.]

Textual Amendments

- F22** S. 30 renumbered (31.7.2008) as s. 30(1) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 46(8)**, 61(1); [S.I. 2008/1864](#), [art. 2](#)
- F23** Words in s. 30(1) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 46(8)(a)**, 61(1); [S.I. 2008/1864](#), [art. 2](#)
- F24** Words in s. 30(a) inserted (16.3.2007 for E.W.) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 44(3)**, 61(1); [S.I. 2007/466](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)
- F25** S. 30(2)(3) inserted (31.7.2008) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 46(8)(b)**, 61(1); [S.I. 2008/1864](#), [art. 2](#)

Changes to legislation: Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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

Commencement Information

I14 S. 30 wholly in force; s. 30 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 30 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by [S.I. 2002/2957](#), arts. {2}, {3}

31 Interpretation of Part 2

(1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires—

“the 1994 Act” means the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (c.22);

[^{F26}“the 2018 Act” means the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018;]

“carrying on business as a registration plate supplier” has the meaning given by section 17(2);

“contravene”, in relation to any provision of regulations, includes fail to comply with it;

“exempt person” means any person who is an exempt person by virtue of regulations made under section 17(3)(b);

[^{F27}“local authority” means—

- (a) in relation to England, a county council, a district council, a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority or the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
- (b) in relation to Wales, a county council or a county borough council; [^{F28}or
- (c) in relation to Scotland, a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;]]

“notice” means notice in writing;

“premises” includes any land or other place (whether or not enclosed);

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State;

“a register” means a register established and maintained under section 18;

“registered” (and cognate expressions) have the meaning given by section 17(4);

Changes to legislation: *Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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*

“registration mark” ^{F29} means a registration mark within the meaning given by section 23(1) of the 1994 Act or section 15(1) of the 2018 Act];

“registration plate” ^{F30} means a trailer registration plate or a vehicle registration plate]

“selling registration plates” is to be construed in accordance with any regulations made under section 17(3)(a).

^{F26}“trailer registration plate” means a plate or other device which—

- (a) displays (whether alone or in conjunction with other information) in accordance with regulations made by virtue of section 15(4)(c) and (d) (i) of the 2018 Act a registration mark which complies with regulations made by virtue of section 15(4)(b) of that Act;
- (b) complies with requirements imposed by regulations made by virtue of section 15(4)(a) of the 2018 Act; and
- (c) is designed to be fixed to a trailer in accordance with regulations made by virtue of section 15(4)(d)(ii) of the 2018 Act;]

^{F26}“vehicle registration plate” means a plate or other device which—

- (a) displays (whether alone or in conjunction with other information) in accordance with regulations under paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 23 of the 1994 Act a registration mark which complies with regulations under paragraph (a) of that subsection;
- (b) complies with requirements imposed by regulations made under section 27A(1)(a) of the 1994 Act; and
- (c) is designed to be fixed to a vehicle or trailer in accordance with regulations made under section 22(2) or 23(3) of that Act.]

(2) The reference in section 22(5) to representations being made in writing includes a reference to representations being made in a text which—

- ^{F31}(a) is transmitted by means of ^{F31}[an electronic communications network] or by other means but while in an electronic form;
- (b) is received in legible form; and
- (c) is capable of being used for subsequent reference.

(3) References in this Part to offences under this Part include references to anything which is an offence by virtue of section 24(3) and (4) or 25(2) and (3).

(4) References in this Part to an appeal under section 23 being finally determined or withdrawn include references to the final determination or withdrawal of proceedings by way of case stated which relate to a decision by a magistrates’ court on an appeal under that section.

Textual Amendments

F26 Words in s. 31(1) inserted (19.7.2018) by [Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 \(c. 19\)](#), s. 27(1), **Sch. para. 8(10)**

F27 Words in s. 31(1) substituted (16.3.2007 for E.W.) by [Road Safety Act 2006 \(c. 49\)](#), **ss. 44(4)**, 61(1); [S.I. 2007/466](#), art. 2(a)

Changes to legislation: Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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

- F28** Words in s. 31(1) inserted (31.7.2008) by Road Safety Act 2006 (c. 49), ss. 46(9), 61(1); S.I. 2008/1864, art. 2
- F29** Words in s. 31(1) substituted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(11)
- F30** Words in s. 31(1) substituted (19.7.2018) by Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 (c. 19), s. 27(1), Sch. para. 8(12)
- F31** Words in s. 31(2)(a) substituted (25.7.2003 for specified purposes, 29.12.2003 in so far as not already in force) by Communications Act 2003 (c. 21), s. 411(2), Sch. 17 para. 168 (with Sch. 18); S.I. 2003/1900, arts. 1(2), 2(1), Schs. 1 (with art. 3) (as amended by S.I. 2003/3142, art. 1(3)); S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3(2) (with art. 11)

Commencement Information

- I15** S. 31 wholly in force; s. 31 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 44; Pt. 2 (ss. 17-31) of the Act in force for certain purposes at 1.12.2002 and s. 31 otherwise in force at 1.1.2003 by S.I. 2002/2957, arts. {2}, {3}

Changes to legislation:

Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, Part 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 June 2023. 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.

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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. 38(4A) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 2\(3\)](#)