



Street Offences Act 1959

1959 CHAPTER 57

1 Loitering or soliciting for purposes of prostitution.

- (1) It shall be an offence for a common prostitute to loiter or solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or, for an offence committed after a previous conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds or, for an offence committed after more than one previous conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or both.
- (3) A constable may arrest without warrant anyone he finds in a street or public place and suspects, with reasonable cause, to be committing an offence under this section.
- (4) For the purposes of this section "street" includes any bridge, road, lane, footway, subway, square, court, alley or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, which is for the time being open to the public; and the doorways and entrances of premises abutting on a street (as hereinbefore defined), and any ground adjoining and open to a street, shall be treated as forming part of the street.
- (5) The following enactments shall cease to have effect, that is to say—
 - (a) paragraph 11 of section fifty-four of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839; and
 - (b) the paragraph beginning " Every common prostitute " in section twenty-eight of the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, and any later Act in so far as it incorporates that paragraph; and
 - (c) paragraph 11 of section thirty-five of the City of London Police Act, 1839, and the paragraph beginning " Every common prostitute " in section one hundred and two of the Manchester Police Regulation Act, 1844;

but for the purposes of subsection (2) of this section a conviction of the offence mentioned in any of those paragraphs shall be taken into account as a previous conviction in the same way as a conviction of an offence under this section.