



Vagrancy Act 1824

1824 CHAPTER 83 5 Geo 4

^{F2F3}[^{F1}4] **Persons committing certain offences to be deemed rogues and vagabonds.**

Every person committing any of the offences herein-before mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; [^{F4} every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose on any of his Majesty's subjects;] every person wandering abroad and lodging in any barn or outhouse, or in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in the open air, or under a tent, or in any cart or waggon, [^{F5} not having any visible means of subsistence] and not giving a good account of himself or herself; [^{F6} every person wilfully exposing to view, in any street, road, highway, or public place, any obscene print, picture, or other indecent exhibition] ; [^{F7} every person wilfully openly, lewdly, and obscenely exposing his person [^{F8} in any street, road, or public highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort,] with intent to insult any female] ; every person wandering abroad, and endeavouring by the exposure of wounds or deformities to obtain or gather alms; every person going about as a gatherer or collector of alms, or endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind, under any false or fraudulent pretence . . . ^{F9} . . . ^{F10} every person being found in or upon any dwelling house, warehouse, coach-house, stable, or outhouse, or in any inclosed yard, garden, or area, for any unlawful purpose; [^{F11} every suspected person or reputed thief, frequenting any river, canal, or navigable stream, dock, or basin, or any quay, wharf, or warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway, or avenue leading thereto, or any place of public resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, [^{F12} or any highway or any place adjacent to a street or highway;] with intent to commit [^{F13} an [^{F14}arrestable offence[^{F14}:indictable offence]]]] ; and every person apprehended as an idle and disorderly person, and violently resisting any constable, or other peace officer so apprehending him or her, and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he or she shall have been so apprehended; shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond, within the true intent and meaning of this Act;and [^{F15} , subject to section 70 of The Criminal Justice Act 1982,] it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit such offender (being thereof convicted before him by the confession of such offender, or by the evidence on oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses,) to the house of correction, . . . ^{F16} for any time not exceeding three calendar months; . . . ^{F17} , and . . .]^{F18}

Changes to legislation: Vagrancy Act 1824, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 November 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** S. 4 repealed (S.) by [Civic Government \(Scotland\) Act 1982 \(c. 45\)](#), **Sch. 4** and repealed, so far as it extends to persons purporting to act as spiritualistic mediums or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or to persons who, in purporting so to act or to exercise such powers, use fraudulent devices, by [Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 \(c. 33\)](#), **s. 2(b)**
- F2** By [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), Sch. 6 para. 2, Sch. 7; [S.I. 2004/874](#), art. 2, it is provided that the words in s. 4 from “wilfully, openly, lewdly” to “any female; or” be repealed (N.I.) (1.5.2004)
- F3** By [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2011 \(c. 24\)](#) (N.I.), Sch. 8 Pt. 5, it is provided that the words “being armed with any dangerous or offensive weapon, or” in s. 4(i) be repealed (N.I.) (5.5.2011)
- F4** Words repealed (E.W.) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1989 \(c. 43\)](#), s. 1(1), **Sch. 1**
- F5** Words repealed (E.W.) by [Vagrancy Act 1935 \(c. 20\)](#), **s. 1(2)**
- F6** Words repealed (E.W.S.) by [Indecent Displays \(Control\) Act 1981 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 5, **Sch.**
- F7** Words in s. 4 repealed (E.W.S.) (1.5.2004) by [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42\)](#), s. 141, Sch. 6 para. 1, **Sch. 7**; [S.I. 2004/874](#), art. 2
- F8** Words repealed (E.W.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1925 \(c. 86\)](#), **Sch. 3**
- F9** Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision \(No. 2\) Act 1888 \(c. 57\)](#) and [National Assistance Act 1948 \(c. 29\)](#), **Sch. 7 Pt. I**
- F10** Words repealed by [Public Order Act 1986 \(c. 64, SIF 39:2\)](#), s. 40(3), **Sch. 3**
- F11** Words repealed (E.W.) by [Criminal Attempts Act 1981 \(c. 47, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 8, **Sch. Pt. II**
- F12** Words substituted by [Prevention of Crimes Act 1871 \(c. 112\)](#), **s. 15**
- F13** Words substituted by [Criminal Law Act 1967 \(c. 58\)](#), s. 11(3), **Sch. 2 para. 2(1)(b)**
- F14** Words in s. 4(i) substituted (N.I.) (5.5.2011) by [Justice Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2011 \(c. 24\)](#), s. 111(1), **Sch. 7 para. 1**
- F15** Words inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **Sch. 14 para. 1(a)**
- F16** Words omitted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1948 \(c. 58\)](#), **s. 1(2)** and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21\)](#), **s. 221(2)**
- F17** Words repealed by [Theft Act 1968 \(c. 60\)](#), **Sch. 3 Pt. I**
- F18** Words repealed by [Public Order Act 1986 \(c. 64, SIF 39:2\)](#), s. 40(3), **Sch. 3**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S.4 amended (E.W.) by [Vagrancy Act 1935 \(c. 20\)](#)
- C2** S. 4 extended (N.I.) and (S.) by [1871 c. 112](#) though is not necessarily in the form in which it has effect in Northern Ireland
- C3** S. 4 amended by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48\)](#), **s. 70**
- C4** S. 4 :by [Criminal Attempts Act 1981 \(c. 47, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 8**, it is provided that the provisions of section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824 which apply to suspected persons and reputed thieves frequenting or loitering about the places described in that section with the intent there specified shall cease to have effect

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 4 words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 32 para. 146\(2\)](#)

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

- Act repealed by [2022 c. 32 s. 81\(1\)](#)

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

- s. 4(1) s. 4 renumbered as s. 4(1) by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 32 para. 146\(3\)](#)
- s. 4(2) inserted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 32 para. 146\(3\)](#)