



Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

1984 CHAPTER 60

PART V

QUESTIONING AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS BY POLICE

[^{F1}61A Impressions of footwear

- (1) Except as provided by this section, no impression of a person's footwear may be taken without the appropriate consent.
- (2) Consent to the taking of an impression of a person's footwear must be in writing if it is given at a time when he is at a police station.
- (3) Where a person is detained at a police station, an impression of his footwear may be taken without the appropriate consent if—
 - (a) he is detained in consequence of his arrest for a recordable offence, or has been charged with a recordable offence, or informed that he will be reported for a recordable offence; and
 - (b) he has not had an impression taken of his footwear in the course of the investigation of the offence by the police.
- (4) Where a person mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above has already had an impression taken of his footwear in the course of the investigation of the offence by the police, that fact shall be disregarded for the purposes of that subsection if the impression of his footwear taken previously is—
 - (a) incomplete; or
 - (b) is not of sufficient quality to allow satisfactory analysis, comparison or matching (whether in the case in question or generally).
- (5) If an impression of a person's footwear is taken at a police station, whether with or without the appropriate consent—
 - (a) before it is taken, an officer shall inform him that it may be the subject of a speculative search; and

Status: Point in time view as at 11/02/2022.

Changes to legislation: Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 61A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 June 2024. 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)

- (b) the fact that the person has been informed of this possibility shall be recorded as soon as is practicable after the impression has been taken, and if he is detained at a police station, the record shall be made on his custody record.
- (6) In a case where, by virtue of subsection (3) above, an impression of a person's footwear is taken without the appropriate consent—
 - (a) he shall be told the reason before it is taken; and
 - (b) the reason shall be recorded on his custody record as soon as is practicable after the impression is taken.
- (7) The power to take an impression of the footwear of a person detained at a police station without the appropriate consent shall be exercisable by any constable.
- (8) Nothing in this section applies to any person—
 - (a) arrested or detained under the terrorism provisions [^{F2}or detained under Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019];
 - (b) arrested under an extradition arrest power.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 61A inserted (1.1.2006) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), **ss. 118(2)**, 178; [S.I. 2005/3495](#), **art. 2(1)(p)**
- F2** Words in s. 61A(8)(a) inserted (13.8.2020) by [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 27(2)(d), **Sch. 4 para. 18(6)**; [S.I. 2020/792](#), reg. 2(i)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 61A extended (1.1.2006) by [Police Reform Act 2002 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 38, Sch. 4 para. 33A (as inserted by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 122, 178, **Sch. 8 para. 16**); [S.I. 2005/3495](#), **art. 2(q)(r)**
- C2** S. 61A applied (with modifications) (31.12.2006) by [The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(Application to the Armed Forces\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2015\)](#), arts. 2, 3, **Schs. 1-3**

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