



Criminal Justice Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 33

PART XI

MISCELLANEOUS

Articles with blades or points and offensive weapons

139 Offence of having article with blade or point in public place.

- (1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) below, any person who has an article to which this section applies with him in a public place shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, this section applies to any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed except a folding pocketknife.
- (3) This section applies to a folding pocketknife if the cutting edge of its blade exceeds 3 inches.
- (4) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that he had good reason or lawful authority for having the article with him in a public place.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (4) above, it shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this section to prove that he had the article with him—
 - (a) for use at work;
 - (b) for religious reasons; or
 - (c) as part of any national costume.
- (6) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) above shall be liable—
 - [^{F1}(a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine, or both.]

Status: Point in time view as at 01/11/1996. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Criminal Justice Act 1988, Section 139 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 October 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)

- (7) In this section “public place” includes any place to which at the material time the public have or are permitted access, whether on payment or otherwise.
- (8) This section shall not have effect in relation to anything done before it comes into force.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 139(6)(a)(b) substituted (4.7.1996) for words by 1996 c. 26, s.3(1) (with s. 3(2))

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/11/1996. This version of this provision has been superseded.

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