



# Road Traffic Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 52

### PART I

#### PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

##### *Cycling offences and cycle racing*

#### [<sup>F1</sup>28 **Dangerous cycling.**

- (1) A person who rides a cycle on a road dangerously is guilty of an offence.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above a person is to be regarded as riding dangerously if (and only if)—
  - (a) the way he rides falls far below what would be expected of a competent and careful cyclist, and
  - (b) it would be obvious to a competent and careful cyclist that riding in that way would be dangerous.
- (3) In subsection (2) above “dangerous” refers to danger either of injury to any person or of serious damage to property; and in determining for the purposes of that subsection what would be obvious to a competent and careful cyclist in a particular case, regard shall be had not only to the circumstances of which he could be expected to be aware but also to any circumstances shown to have been within the knowledge of the accused.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 28 substituted (1.7.1992) by [Road Traffic Act 1991 \(c. 40, SIF 107:1\)](#), s. 7; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, Sch.

*Status: Point in time view as at 11/04/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Cross Heading: Cycling offences and cycle racing is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 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)*

**29 Careless, and inconsiderate, cycling.**

If a person rides a cycle on a road without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road, he is guilty of an offence.

F2  
...

**Textual Amendments**

F2 Words in s. 29 repealed (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 83, Sch.8; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, Sch.

**30 Cycling when under influence of drink or drugs.**

(1) A person who, when riding a cycle on a road or other public place, is unfit to ride through drink or drugs (that is to say, is under the influence of drink or a drug to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of the cycle) is guilty of an offence.

(2) In Scotland a constable may arrest without warrant a person committing an offence under this section.

F3(3) .....

**Textual Amendments**

F3 S. 30(3) repealed (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 83, Sch.8; S.I. 1992/1286, art. 2, Sch.

**31 Regulation of cycle racing on public ways.**

(1) A person who promotes or takes part in a race or trial of speed on a public way between cycles is guilty of an offence, unless the race or trial—  
(a) is authorised, and  
(b) is conducted in accordance with any conditions imposed,  
by or under regulations under this section.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations authorise, or provide for authorising, for the purposes of subsection (1) above, the holding on a public way other than a bridleway—  
(a) of races or trials of speed of any class or description, or  
(b) of a particular race or trial of speed,  
in such cases as may be prescribed and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by or under the regulations.

(3) Regulations under this section may—  
(a) prescribe the procedure to be followed, and the particulars to be given, in connection with applications for authorisation under the regulations, and  
(b) make different provision for different classes or descriptions of race or trial.

(4) Without prejudice to any other powers exercisable in that behalf, the chief officer of police may give directions with respect to the movement of, or the route to be followed by, vehicular traffic during any period, being directions which it is necessary or expedient to give in relation to that period to prevent or mitigate—

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- (a) congestion or obstruction of traffic, or
- (b) danger to or from traffic,

in consequence of the holding of a race or trial of speed authorised by or under regulations under this section.

- (5) Directions under subsection (4) above may include a direction that any road or part of a road specified in the direction shall be closed during the period to vehicles or to vehicles of a class so specified.

[<sup>F4</sup>(6) In this section “public way” means, in England and Wales, a highway, and in Scotland, a public road but does not include a footpath.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F4** S. 31(6) substituted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para.49**; ; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**, Sch.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C1** S. 31(2): transfer of certain functions (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/1750, **art. 2**, **Sch. 1** (with **art. 7**); S.I. 1998/3178, **art. 3**  
S. 31(2): transfer of functions (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/672, **arts. 1, 2**, **Sch. 1**

## 32 Electrically assisted pedal cycles.

- (1) An electrically assisted pedal cycle of a class specified in regulations made for the purposes of section 189 of this Act and section 140 of the <sup>M1</sup>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 shall not be driven on a road by a person under the age of fourteen.
- (2) A person who—
- (a) drives such a pedal cycle, or
  - (b) knowing or suspecting that another person is under the age of fourteen, causes or permits him to drive such a pedal cycle,
- in contravention of subsection (1) above is guilty of an offence.

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1984 c. 27.

**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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