



# Knives Act 1997

## 1997 CHAPTER 21

### *The offences*

#### **1 Unlawful marketing of knives**

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he markets a knife in a way which—
  - (a) indicates, or suggests, that it is suitable for combat; or
  - (b) is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving the use of the knife as a weapon.
- (2) “Suitable for combat” and “violent behaviour” are defined in section 10.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, an indication or suggestion that a knife is suitable for combat may, in particular, be given or made by a name or description—
  - (a) applied to the knife;
  - (b) on the knife or on any packaging in which it is contained; or
  - (c) included in any advertisement which, expressly or by implication, relates to the knife.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, a person markets a knife if—
  - (a) he sells or hires it;
  - (b) he offers, or exposes, it for sale or hire; or
  - (c) he has it in his possession for the purpose of sale or hire.
- (5) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine, or to both.

#### **2 Publications**

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he publishes any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of any knife and that material—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) indicates, or suggests, that the knife is suitable for combat; or
  - (b) is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving the use of the knife as a weapon.
- (2) A person who is guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine, or to both.