



Constitutional Reform Act 2005

2005 CHAPTER 4

PART 3

THE SUPREME COURT

[^{F1}Court security

[^{F1}51C Surrender, seizure and retention of knives and other articles

- (1) If a Supreme Court security officer acting in the execution of the officer's duty reasonably believes that an article in the possession of a person who is in, or seeking to enter, a court building ought to be surrendered on any of the grounds given in subsection (2), the officer must ask the person to surrender the article; and, if the person refuses to surrender the article, the officer may seize it.
- (2) The grounds are that the article—
 - (a) may jeopardise the maintenance of order in the court building (or a part of it),
 - (b) may put the safety of any person in the court building at risk, or
 - (c) may be evidence of, or in relation to, an offence.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), a Supreme Court security officer may retain an article which was—
 - (a) surrendered in response to a request under subsection (1), or
 - (b) seized under that subsection,until the time when the person who surrendered it, or from whom it was seized, is leaving the court building.
- (4) If a Supreme Court security officer reasonably believes that the article may be evidence of, or in relation to, an offence, the officer may retain it until—
 - (a) the time when the person who surrendered it, or from whom it was seized, is leaving the court building, or
 - (b) the end of the permitted period,whichever is the later.

Changes to legislation: Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Section 51C is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 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) View outstanding changes

- (5) In subsection (4) “the permitted period” means such period, not exceeding 24 hours from the time the article was surrendered or seized, as will enable the Supreme Court security officer to draw the article to the attention of a constable.
- (6) Subsections (3) to (5) do not apply where a knife is—
- (a) surrendered to a Supreme Court security officer in response to a request under subsection (1), or
 - (b) seized by a Supreme Court security officer under that subsection,
- but, instead, the knife must be retained in accordance with regulations under section 51D(3) unless returned or disposed of in accordance with those regulations or regulations under section 51D(1).
- (7) If a Supreme Court security officer reasonably believes that a retained knife may be evidence of, or in relation to, an offence, nothing in subsection (6) prevents the officer retaining the knife for so long as necessary to enable the officer to draw it to the attention of a constable.
- (8) In this section “knife” includes—
- (a) a knife-blade, and
 - (b) any other article which—
 - (i) has a blade or is sharply pointed, and
 - (ii) is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.]

Textual Amendments

F1 Ss. 51A-51E and cross-heading inserted (1.10.2013) by [Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(c. 22\)](#), [ss. 30\(1\), 61\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2013/2200](#), art. 3(c)

Changes to legislation:

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

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

- s. 132(4A) words substituted by [2015 c. 2 s. 83\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words inserted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(10\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4Pt. A words substituted by [2007 c. 15 s. 144\(10\)\(b\)](#)