



Identity Documents Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 40

False identity documents etc

6 Possession of false identity documents etc without reasonable excuse

- (1) It is an offence for a person (“P”), without reasonable excuse, to have in P’s possession or under P’s control—
- an identity document that is false,
 - an identity document that was improperly obtained,
 - an identity document that relates to someone else,
 - any apparatus which, to P’s knowledge, is or has been specially designed or adapted for the making of false identity documents, or
 - any article or material which, to P’s knowledge, is or has been specially designed or adapted to be used in the making of such documents.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
- on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine (or both), or
 - on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding the maximum period or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both).
- (3) In subsection (2)(b) “the maximum period” means—
- in ^{F1}... Scotland, 12 months, and
 - in Northern Ireland, 6 months.
- ^{F2}(c) in England and Wales, the general limit in a magistrates’ court.]
- (4) In subsection [^{F3}(3)(c)] the reference to [^{F4}the general limit in a magistrates’ court] in England and Wales is to be read, in relation to an offence committed before [^{F5}2 May 2022], as a reference to 6 months.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 6(3)(a) omitted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by virtue of [The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(Magistrates’ Court Sentencing Powers\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/149\)](#), regs. 1(2), **23(2)**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Identity Documents Act 2010, Section 6. (See end of Document for details)

- F2** S. 6(3)(c) inserted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), **23(3)**
- F3** Word in s. 6(4) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), **23(4)**
- F4** Words in s. 6(4) substituted (7.2.2023 at 12.00 p.m.) by The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/149), regs. 1(2), 2(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**
- F5** Words in s. 6(4) substituted (28.4.2022) by The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 33) and Sentencing Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/500), regs. 1(2), 5(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Identity Documents Act 2010, Section 6.