

Criminal Justice Act 1988 - Articles with blades or points and offensive weapons

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

Section 139

- 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 on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- 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.