

Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988/2019

Schedule 1

para. 1

Partially Repealed With Amendments Pending

Version 10 of 11

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

England and Wales

[

1.

[Section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) (offensive weapons) shall apply to the following descriptions of weapons, other than weapons of those descriptions which are antiques for the purposes of this Schedule:

- (a) a knuckleduster, that is, a band of metal or other hard material worn on one or more fingers, and designed to cause injury, and any weapon incorporating a knuckleduster;
- (b) a swordstick, that is, a hollow walking-stick or cane containing a blade which may be used as a sword;
- (c) the weapon sometimes known as a “*handclaw*”, being a band of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn around the hand;
- (d) the weapon sometimes known as a “*belt buckle knife*”, being a buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife;
- (e) the weapon sometimes known as a “*push dagger*”, being a knife the handle of which fits within a clenched fist and the blade of which protrudes from between two fingers;
- (f) the weapon sometimes known as a “*hollow kubotan*”, being a cylindrical container containing a number of sharp spikes;
- (g) the weapon sometimes known as a “*footclaw*”, being a bar of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn strapped to the foot;

(h) the weapon sometimes known as a “*shuriken*”, “*shaken*” or “*death star*”, being a hard non-flexible plate having three or more sharp radiating points and designed to be thrown;

(i) the weapon sometimes known as a “*balisong*” or “*butterfly knife*”, being a blade enclosed by its handle, which is designed to split down the middle, without the operation of a spring or other mechanical means, to reveal the blade;

(j) the weapon sometimes known as a “*telescopic truncheon*”, being a truncheon which extends automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in or attached to its handle;

(k) the weapon sometimes known as a “*blowpipe*” or “*blow gun*”, being a hollow tube out of which hard pellets or darts are shot by the use of breath;

(l) the weapon sometimes known as a “*kusari gama*”, being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a sickle;

(m) the weapon sometimes known as a “*kyoketsu shoge*”, being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a hooked knife;

(n) the weapon sometimes known as a “*manrikigusari*” or “*kusari*”, being a length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at each end to a hard weight or hand grip;

(o) a disguised knife, that is any knife which has a concealed blade or concealed sharp point and is designed to appear to be an everyday object of a kind commonly carried on the person or in a handbag, briefcase, or other hand luggage (such as a comb, brush, writing instrument, cigarette lighter, key, lipstick or telephone);

(p) a stealth knife, that is a knife or spike, which has a blade, or sharp point, made from a material that is not readily detectable by apparatus used for detecting metal and which is not designed for domestic use or for use in the processing, preparation or consumption of food or as a toy;

(q) a straight, side-handled or friction-lock truncheon (sometimes known as a baton) [;]²

[

(r) a sword with a curved blade of 50 centimetres or over in length; and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, the length of the blade shall be the straight line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade [;]³

]²[

(s) the weapon sometimes known as a “*zombie knife*”, “*zombie killer knife*” or “*zombie slayer knife*”, being a blade with—

(i) a cutting edge;

(ii) a serrated edge; and

(iii) images or words (whether on the blade or handle) that suggest that it is to be used for the purpose of violence [;]⁴

]³[

(sa) the weapon sometimes known as a “*zombie-style knife*” or “*zombie-style machete*”, being a bladed article with—

(i) a plain cutting edge;

(ii) a sharp pointed end; and

(iii) a blade of over 8 inches in length (the length of the blade being the straight-line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade), which also has one or more of the features specified in [paragraph 1A](#) and which is not a weapon that falls under paragraph 1(s);

]⁵[

(t) the weapon sometimes known as a "*cyclone knife*" or "*spiral knife*" being a weapon with—

(i) a handle,

(ii) a blade with two or more cutting edges, each of which forms a helix, and

(iii) a sharp point at the end of the blade [;]⁶

]⁴[

(u) the weapon sometimes known as a "*ninja sword*", being a sword with—

(i) a blade whose length is at least 14 inches, but no more than 24 inches (the length of the blade being the straight-line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade),

(ii) a primary straight cutting edge,

(iii) a secondary straight cutting edge,

(iv) a blunt spine, and

(v) either a tanto style point or a reversed tanto style point.

]⁶[

Scotland

[...]

Notes

1 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment) Order 2004/1271 [art.3\(1\)](#) (June 5, 2004)

2 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons)(Amendment) Order 2008/973 [art.2\(2\)](#) (April 6, 2008)

3 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment) Order 2016/803 [art.2\(2\)](#) (August 18, 2016)

Notes

- 4 Added by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 [Pt 4 s.47\(3\)](#) (July 14, 2021: insertion has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to 2019 c.17 s.47(10))
 - 5 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(2\)](#) (September 24, 2024)
 - 6 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025/681 [Pt 2 art.2\(2\)](#) (August 1, 2025)
-

Schedule 1 > para. 1

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 1A

Law In Force

Version 1 of 1

24 September 2024 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

1A.—

(1) For the purposes of paragraph 1(sa), the specified features are—

- (a) a serrated cutting edge (other than a serrated cutting edge of up to 2 inches next to the handle);
- (b) more than one hole in the blade;
- (c) spikes;
- (d) more than two sharp points in the blade (other than a sharp point of a kind specified in sub-paragraph (2)).

(2) The kinds of sharp point mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(d) are—

- (a) a sharp point where the angle between the edges which create the point is an angle of at least 90 degrees (where there is a curved edge, the angle will be measured by reference to the tangent of the curve);
- (b) a sharp point on the cutting edge of the blade near the handle.

]¹

Notes

1 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 Pt 2 art.2(3) (September 24, 2024)

Schedule 1 > para. 1A

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 1B

Law In Force

Version 1 of 1

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

1B.—

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 1(u)(iv), a spine is blunt if it is not adapted to cutting.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 1(u)(v)—
 - (a) a sword has a tanto style point if—
 - (i) the angle between its primary straight cutting edge and its secondary straight cutting edge is greater than 90 degrees, and
 - (ii) the angle between its secondary straight cutting edge and its spine is less than 90 degrees;
 - (b) a sword has a reversed tanto style point if—
 - (i) the angle between its primary straight cutting edge and its secondary straight cutting edge is less than 90 degrees, and
 - (ii) the angle between its secondary straight cutting edge and its spine is greater than 90 degrees.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 1(u)(ii) and (iii) and this paragraph—
 - (a) a primary straight cutting edge is the longest cutting edge of a blade which immediately connects to the handle;
 - (b) a secondary straight cutting edge is a cutting edge—
 - (i) which forms an angle with the primary straight cutting edge and the spine, and
 - (ii) is no more than 5% longer or shorter than the width of the blade immediately after the handle.

1¹

Notes

- 1 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025/681 [Pt 2 art.2\(3\)](#) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 1B

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 2

Partially Repealed With Amendments Pending

Version 3 of 4

14 July 2021 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

England and Wales

[
2.

For the purposes of this Schedule, a weapon is an antique if it was manufactured more than 100 years before the date of any offence alleged to have been committed in respect of that weapon under [subsection \(1\)](#) and [\(1A\)](#) of the said section 141 or [section 50\(2\) or \(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#) (improper importation).

]¹

Scotland

[...]²

Notes

- 1 Words inserted by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 [Pt 4 s.47\(4\)](#) (July 14, 2021: insertion has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to 2019 c.17 s.47(10))
- 2 Revoked by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Scotland) Order 2005/483 (Scottish SI) [art.3](#) (September 29, 2005)

Schedule 1 > para. 2

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 3

Law In Force With Amendments Pending

Version 3 of 4

14 July 2021 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

3.

It shall be a defence for a person charged—

(a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\)](#) or [\(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or

(b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\)](#) or [\(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#)², in respect of any conduct of his relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [paragraph 1\(r\)](#) to show that the weapon in question was made before 1954 or was made at any other time according to traditional methods of making swords by hand.

]¹

Notes

- 1 Words inserted by [Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 Pt 4 s.47\(5\)](#) (July 14, 2021: insertion has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to [2019 c.17 s.47\(10\)](#))
- 2 1979 c.2. Relevant amendments are [section 114](#) of the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(c.60\)](#), [regulation 4\(1\)\(a\)](#) of [S.I. 1996/2686](#) and [section 12](#) of the [Finance Act 1988 \(c.39\)](#).

Schedule 1 > para. 3

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 4

Law In Force With Amendments Pending

Version 3 of 3

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

4.

(1) It shall be a defence for a person charged—

(a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\) or \(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or

(b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\) or \(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#),

in respect of any conduct of his relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [paragraph 1\(r\)\[or \(u\)\]²](#) to show that his conduct was for the purpose only of making the weapon available for the purposes of the organisation and holding of a permitted activity for which public liability insurance is held in relation to liabilities to third parties arising from or in connection with the organisation and holding of such an activity.

(2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under [section 141\(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) in respect of any conduct of that person relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of that Act applies by virtue of [paragraph 1\(r\)\[or \(u\)\]²](#) to show that the person's conduct was for the purpose only of participating in a permitted activity of a kind mentioned in sub-paragraph (1).

]¹

Notes

1 Existing Sch.1 para.4 renumbered as Sch.1 para.4(1), words are inserted and Sch.1 para.4(2) is inserted by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 [Pt 4 s.47\(6\)](#) (July 14, 2021: substitution has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to 2019 c.17 s.47(10))

2 Words inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025/681 [Pt 2 art.2\(4\)](#) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 4

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5

Law In Force

Version 1 of 1

6 April 2008 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5.

For the purposes of [paragraph 4](#)—

“historical re-enactment” means any presentation or other event held for the purpose of re-enacting an event from the past or of illustrating conduct from a particular time or period in the past;

“insurance” means a contract of insurance or other arrangement made for the purpose of indemnifying a person or persons named in the contract or under the arrangement;

“permitted activity” means an historical re-enactment or a sporting activity;

“sporting activity” means the practising of a sport which requires the use of a weapon described in [paragraph 1\(r\)](#);

“third parties” includes participants in, and spectators of, a permitted activity and members of the public.

]¹

Notes

1 Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons)(Amendment) Order 2008/973 [art.2\(3\)](#) (April 6, 2008)

Schedule 1 > para. 5
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5A

Law In Force With Amendments Pending

Version 3 of 4

24 September 2024 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5A.

(1) It shall be a defence for a person charged—

(a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\) or \(1A\) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or

(b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\) or \(3\) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#), in respect of any conduct of his relating to a weapon to which [section 141 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [paragraph 1\(r\)\[or \(sa\)\]²](#) to show that his conduct was for the purpose only of making the weapon available for the purposes of use for religious reasons.

(2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under [section 141\(1A\) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) in respect of a weapon to which [section 141 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [paragraph 1\(r\)\[or \(sa\)\]²](#) to show that the person possessed the weapon for religious reasons only.

]¹

Notes

¹ Existing Sch.1 para.5A renumbered as Sch.1 para.5A(1), words are inserted and Sch.1 para.5A(2) is inserted by [Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 Pt 4 s.47\(7\)](#) (July 14, 2021: substitution has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to [2019 c.17 s.47\(10\)](#))

² Words inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Offensive Weapons\) \(Amendment, Surrender and Compensation\) Order 2024/583 Pt 2 art.2\(4\)](#) (September 24, 2024)

Schedule 1 > para. 5A

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5B

Law In Force With Amendments Pending

Version 2 of 3

24 September 2024 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5B

(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies to—

(a) a person charged with an offence under [section 141\(1\) or \(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) in respect of any conduct of the person relating to a curved sword [, zombie-style knife or zombie-style machete]² , and

(b) a person charged with an offence under [section 50\(2\) or \(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#) in respect of any conduct of the person relating to a curved sword [, zombie-style knife or zombie-style machete]² .

(2) It is a defence for the person to show that the person's conduct was for the purpose only of making the sword [, knife or machete]³ available for presentation by a Sikh to another person at a religious ceremony or other ceremonial event.

(3) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under [section 141\(1\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) of giving a curved sword [, zombie-style knife or zombie-style machete]² to another person to show that the person's conduct consisted of the presentation of the sword [, knife or machete]³ by a Sikh to another person at a religious ceremony or other ceremonial event.

(4) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under [section 141\(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) of possession of a curved sword [, zombie-style knife or zombie-style machete]² in private to show that—

(a) the person was a Sikh at the time the offence is alleged to have been committed and possessed the sword [, knife or machete]³ for the purpose only of presenting it to another person at a religious ceremony or other ceremonial event, or

(b) the sword [, knife or machete]³ was presented to the person by a Sikh at a religious ceremony or other ceremonial event.

(5) In this paragraph—

"curved sword" means a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [paragraph](#)

1(r);

[

”zombie-style knife or zombie-style machete” means a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of paragraph 1(sa);

]⁴

”Sikh” means a follower of the Sikh religion.

]¹

Notes

- 1 Added by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 [Pt 4 s.47\(8\)](#) (July 14, 2021: insertion has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to 2019 c.17 s.47(10))
 - 2 Words inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(5\)\(a\)](#) (September 24, 2024)
 - 3 Words inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(5\)\(b\)](#) (September 24, 2024)
 - 4 Definition inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(5\)\(c\)](#) (September 24, 2024)
-

Schedule 1 > para. 5B

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5C

Law In Force

Version 2 of 2

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5C.—

It is a defence for a person charged—

- (a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or
- (b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\)](#) or [\(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#),

in respect of any conduct of the person relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of paragraph 1(sa)[or (u)]² to show that the weapon in question is one of historical importance.

]¹

Notes

- 1 Added by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Offensive Weapons\) \(Amendment, Surrender and Compensation\) Order 2024/583 Pt 2 art.2\(6\)](#) (September 24, 2024)
- 2 Words inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Offensive Weapons\) \(Amendment, Surrender and Compensation\) \(England and Wales\) Order 2025/681 Pt 2 art.2\(5\)](#) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 5C
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5D

Law In Force

Version 2 of 2

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5D.—

(1) It is a defence for a person charged—

(a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\) or \(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or

(b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\) or \(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#),

in respect of any conduct of the person relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of paragraph 1(sa)[or (u)]² to show that the weapon was made by hand.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a weapon is made by hand if the making (including construction, finish and decoration) of the weapon is accomplished predominantly by one or more of the following methods—

(a) hand labour;

(b) manually-controlled methods which permit the maker to control and vary the construction, shape, design and finish of each part of each weapon (including the use of hand-controlled power tools).

]¹

Notes

¹ Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(6\)](#) (September 24, 2024)

² Words inserted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025/681 [Pt 2 art.2\(6\)](#) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 5D

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 5E

Law In Force

Version 2 of 2

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

5E.—

(1) It is a defence for a person charged—

(a) with an offence under [section 141\(1\) or \(1A\)](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#); or

(b) with an offence under [section 50\(2\) or \(3\)](#) of the [Customs and Excise Management Act 1979](#),

in respect of any conduct of the person relating to a weapon to which [section 141](#) of the [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) applies by virtue of [[paragraph 1\(r\)](#), (sa) or (u)]² to show that the weapon in question is blunt.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a weapon is blunt if it does not have any of the following elements—

(a) a thin edge adapted to cutting;

(b) a sharp point adapted to piercing;

(c) any other element adapted to cutting or piercing.

]¹

Notes

¹ Added by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) Order 2024/583 [Pt 2 art.2\(6\)](#) (September 24, 2024)

² Words substituted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation)

Notes

(England and Wales) Order 2025/681 [Pt 2 art.2\(7\)](#) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 5E

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Schedule 1

para. 6

Law In Force With Amendments Pending

Version 4 of 4

1 August 2025 - Present

Subjects

Criminal law

[

6.

For the purposes of [paragraphs 3, 4, and 5A to 5E]¹, a person shall be taken to have shown a matter specified in those paragraphs if—

- (a) sufficient evidence of that matter is adduced to raise an issue with respect to it; and
- (b) the contrary is not proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

]¹

Notes

- 1 Words substituted by Offensive Weapons Act 2019 c. 17 Pt 4 s.47(9) (July 14, 2021: substitution has effect on July 14, 2021 in relation to England and Wales subject to 2019 c.17 s.47(10))
- 2 Words substituted by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025/681 Pt 2 art.2(8) (August 1, 2025)

Schedule 1 > para. 6

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.