

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

Fact sheet: Overview of the Bill

Overview

1. The Bill contains a variety of measures to protect the public, including from anti-social behaviour, dangerous dogs, forced marriage, sexual harm and illegal firearms used by gangs and in organised crime. It also includes changes to improve the provision of services to victims and witnesses. In addition, the Bill will take forward further police reform, to enhance the public's confidence in police integrity and continue modernising police pay and conditions, as well as improving the effectiveness of our extradition arrangements and the efficiency of the criminal justice system.
2. The key provisions in the Bill are set out below.

Parts 1 to 6: Anti-social behaviour

3. Parts 1 to 6 introduce simpler, more effective powers for tackling anti-social behaviour, which provide better protection for victims and communities, act as a real deterrent to perpetrators and give victims a say in the way their complaints are dealt with.
4. The provisions in Parts 1 to 4 replace the existing 19 powers to deal with anti-social behaviour with six faster, more effective ones.
5. Part 5 gives landlords powers to deal swiftly with the most serious anti-social behaviour committed by their tenants.
6. Part 6 gives victims the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new community trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new community remedy.

Part 7: Dangerous dogs

7. Part 7 strengthens powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership by extending to private places the offence of owning or being in charge of a dog that is dangerously out of control in a public place. It also provides that a dog attack on an assistance dog constitutes an aggravated offence. Part 7 also ensures that the courts can take account of the character of the owner of the dog, as well as of the dog, when assessing whether a dog should be destroyed on the grounds that it is a risk to the public.

Part 8: Firearms

8. Part 8 increases to life imprisonment the maximum penalty for the illegal importation/exportation of firearms and creates a new offence of “possession for sale or transfer” of prohibited firearms.
9. It also includes a clause to correct an anomaly in the arrangements for authorising armed British Transport Police officers, bringing them into line with officers in the territorial forces.

Part 9: Protection from sexual harm and violence

10. Part 9 reforms the system of civil orders under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 used to protect children and vulnerable adults from sexual harm, making the powers available more flexible and effective.
11. It also extends the use of preventative Violent Offender Orders to offenders convicted of murder abroad.

Part 10: Forced marriage

12. Part 10 tackles forced marriage by making forced marriage a criminal offence and criminalising the breach of a forced marriage protection order.

Part 11: Policing

13. Part 11 makes a number of policing reforms. It:
 - gives the College of Policing the powers it needs to set standards for the police in England and Wales;
 - extends the powers and remit of the Independent Police Complaints Commission to help it to carry out its functions;
 - replaces the Police Negotiating Board with a new Police Remuneration Review Body to consider and make recommendations on police officers' pay and conditions;
 - confers on Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility for commissioning victims services;
 - enables PCCs to appoint as chief constables candidates with relevant policing experience in forces overseas;
 - rectifies anomalies in the framework of financial controls on chief officers;
 - ensures that samples (such as blood and hair) may be retained while they may be required as evidence in legal proceedings;
 - provides the police and Border Force officers with powers to seize invalid travel documents;
 - ensures that the counter-terrorism border security powers contained in Schedules 7 and 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000 strike a better balance

between the need to protect public safety and the protection of individual freedoms;

- provides for the independent inspection of the Serious Fraud Office by Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate;
- provides a transparent legislative basis for the Disclosure and Barring Service's fees to be set at a level that takes into account the cost of providing criminal record checks to volunteers for free; and
- enables chief constables to give police community support officers additional powers in respect of cyclists riding without lights.

Part 12: Extradition

14. Part 12 makes provisions to strengthen public confidence in, and the operational effectiveness of, our extradition arrangements by amending the Extradition Act 2003, including by implementing recommendations from Sir Scott Baker's review and reforming the European Arrest Warrant.

Part 13: Criminal justice and court reform

15. The measures in Part 13 improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system, while enhancing the provision of services to victims and witnesses by:

- establishing in law a test of "clear innocence" for the purpose of determining eligibility for compensation for miscarriages of justice;
- improving the speed and efficiency of the criminal justice system's response to low-level offending by enabling the police to prosecute uncontested minor offences of shop theft;
- extending the scope of the statutory witness protection scheme to cover other vulnerable individuals;
- ensuring that offenders sentenced to custody contribute to the costs of supporting victims by removing the power of magistrates' courts to add additional days to a sentence of imprisonment in lieu of the Victims Surcharge; and
- enabling the Lord Chancellor to set certain court and tribunal fees above cost.

16. For more information on the Bill and to view supporting documentation, including detailed fact sheets on the provisions, please see the Bill web page on the Government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>