



UK News



# Knife Crime Is Targeted

Updated: 08:47, Friday April 06, 2007

New measures to combat gun and knife crime, mobile phone robberies and hooliganism have come into force.

It is now an offence to get someone to carry or hide a weapon on your behalf, carrying up to 10 years imprisonment for firearms and four years for knives.

New measures begin

Selling or buying a "primer" - a key component of ammunition - is also a crime, unless legitimacy criteria are met.

Anyone caught offering to "unblock" - or re-programme - a mobile phone faces up to five years in jail and/or an unlimited fine.

Since 2002 it has been an offence to re-programme a phone but police had difficulty enforcing the law because they had to catch someone in the act.

Under parts of the 2006 Violent Crime Reduction Act, the range of offences for which a firearms offender can be given a mandatory minimum five-year sentence have also been extended.

The importing of imitation guns will also be banned from October this year.

New powers for police and trading standards officers mean licensees can be fined up to £10,000 and have their licence suspended for up to three months if they are caught selling alcohol to underage children three times in a three month period.

Football banning orders - which force hooligans to hand over their passports before an international game - were made a permanent part of the law.

The maximum period of a banning order increases from three years to five.

Home Secretary John Reid told Sky News: "A lot of these measures are the product of discussions with people from the local community, who told us what they would like to see done.

"It's a matter of putting police on the streets and empowering the community."

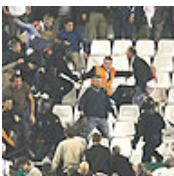
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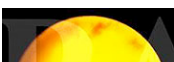
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