



# Caravan Sites Act 1968

## 1968 CHAPTER 52

An Act to restrict the eviction from caravan sites of occupiers of caravans and make other provision for the benefit of such occupiers; to secure the establishment of such sites by local authorities for the use of gipsies and other persons of nomadic habit, and control in certain areas the unauthorised occupation of land by such persons; to amend the definition of “caravan” in Part I of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid. [26th July 1968]

### Extent Information

- E1** Act does not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland; [Pt. I](#) and ss. 13, 14(1), 16 and 17(1)(3) extend to England and Wales and Scotland.

### Commencement Information

- II** Act not in force at Royal Assent see [s. 17\(2\)](#); Act wholly in force at 1. 4. 1970 see [S.I. 1970/199](#).  
Act: transfer of functions (w.) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#)

## PART I

### PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL OCCUPIERS

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** [Pt. I](#) (ss. 1–5) applied by [Local Government Finance Act 1988](#) (c. 41, SIF 81:1), [ss. 66\(8\)](#), 142

## 1 Application of Part 1.

- (1) This Part of this Act applies in relation to any licence or contract (whether made before or after the passing of this Act) under which a person is entitled to station a caravan on a protected site (as defined by subsection (2) below) and occupy it as his residence, or to occupy as his residence a caravan stationed on any such site; and any such licence

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or contract is in this Part referred to as a residential contract, and the person so entitled as the occupier.

- (2) For the purposes of this Part of this Act a protected site is any land [<sup>F1</sup> in England] in respect of which a site licence is required under Part I of the <sup>M1</sup>Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 or would be so required if [<sup>F2</sup>paragraph 11 local authority sites)] were omitted, not being land in respect of which the relevant planning permission or site licence—
- (a) is expressed to be granted for holiday use only; or
  - (b) is otherwise so expressed or subject to such conditions that there are times of the year when no caravan may be stationed on the land for human habitation.
- (3) References in this Part of this Act to the owner of a protected site are references to the person who is or would apart from any residential contract be entitled to possession of the land.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) inserted (E.W.) (5.11.2013) by [Mobile Homes \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 6\), s. 64\(1\), Sch. 4 para. 2\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 5 para. 7](#)) (this amendment is to be treated as not having effect until 1.10.2014 by virtue of [S.I. 2014/11](#), art. 3(2))
- F2** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (18.1.2005) by [Housing Act 2004 \(c. 34\), ss. 209\(2\), 270\(3\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 209(3))
- F3** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (S.) (28.5.2007) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 1\), ss. 171\(1\)\(a\), 195\(3\)](#) (with [ss. 171\(2\), 193](#)); [S.S.I. 2007/270](#), art. 3

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** [1960 c. 62.](#)

## 2 Minimum length of notice.

In any case where a residential contract is determinable by notice given by either party to the other, a notice so given shall be of no effect unless it is given not less than four weeks before the date on which it is to take effect.

## 3 [<sup>F4</sup>Protection of occupiers against eviction and harassment, false information etc.]

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person shall be guilty of an offence under this section—
- (a) if, during the subsistence of a residential contract, he unlawfully deprives the occupier of his occupation on the protected site of any caravan which the occupier is entitled by the contract to station and occupy, or to occupy, as his residence thereon;
  - (b) if, after the expiration or determination of a residential contract, he enforces, otherwise than by proceedings in the court, any right to exclude the occupier from the protected site or from any such caravan, or to remove or exclude any such caravan from the site;
  - [<sup>F5</sup>(c) if, whether during the subsistence or after the expiration or determination of a residential contract, the person—

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- (i) does anything likely to interfere with the peace or comfort of the occupier or persons residing with the occupier; or
- (ii) persistently withdraws or withholds services or facilities reasonably required for the occupation of the caravan as a residence on the site, and (in either case) knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that that conduct is likely to cause the occupier to abandon the occupation of the caravan or remove it from the site or to refrain from exercising any right or pursuing any remedy in relation to the caravan.]

[<sup>F9</sup>(1A) [<sup>F10</sup>Subject to the provisions of this section, the owner of a protected site or his agent shall be guilty of an offence under this section if, whether during the subsistence or after the expiration or determination of a residential contract—

- (a) he does acts likely to interfere with the peace or comfort of the occupier or persons residing with him, or
- (b) he [<sup>F11</sup>withdraws or withholds <sup>F12</sup>...] ... services or facilities reasonably required for the occupation of the caravan as a residence on the site,

and (in either case) he knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that that conduct is likely to cause the occupier to do any of the things mentioned in subsection (1)(c)(i) or (ii) of this section.]

[<sup>F13</sup>(1AA) [<sup>F14</sup>The owner of a protected site ... or the owner's agent is guilty of an offence under this section if, during the subsistence of a residential contract, the owner or (as the case may be) agent—

- (a) knowingly or recklessly provides information or makes a representation which is false or misleading in a material respect to any person, and
- (b) knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that doing so is likely to cause—
  - (i) the occupier to do any of the things mentioned in subsection (1)(c)(i) or (ii), or
  - (ii) a person who is considering whether to purchase or occupy the caravan to which the residential contract relates to decide not to do so.]

(1B) [<sup>F15</sup>References in [<sup>F15</sup>subsections (1A) and (1AA)] of this section to the owner of a protected site include references to a person with an estate or interest in the site which is superior to that of the owner.]]

- (2) References in this section to the occupier include references to the person who was the occupier under a residential contract which has expired or been determined and, in the case of the death of the occupier (whether during the subsistence or after the expiration or determination of the contract), to any person then residing with the occupier being—
- (a) the widow of the occupier; or
  - (b) in default of a widow so residing, any member of the occupier's family.

- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall, without prejudice to any liability or remedy to which he may be subject in civil proceedings, be [<sup>F17</sup>
- [[<sup>F18</sup>liable on summary conviction—
- (a) in the case of a first offence, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
  - (b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both.]

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- (4) In proceedings for an offence under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) of this section it shall be a defence to prove that the accused believed, and had reasonable cause to believe, that the occupier of the caravan had ceased to reside on the site.
- [<sup>F19</sup>(4A) In proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(c) of this section it shall be a defence to prove that the accused had reasonable grounds for doing the acts or withdrawing or withholding the services or facilities in question.]
- (5) Nothing in this section applies to the exercise by any person of a right to take possession of a caravan of which he is the owner, other than a right conferred by or arising on the expiration or determination of a residential contract, or to anything done pursuant to the order of any court.

#### Textual Amendments

- F4** S. 3 heading substituted (E.W.) (27.5.2013) by [Mobile Homes Act 2013 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 12(1)**, 15(3)
- F5** S. 3(1)(c) substituted (S.) (28.5.2007) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 1\)](#), **ss. 171(1)(b)(i)**, 195(3) (with **ss. 171(2)**, 193); [S.S.I. 2007/270](#), art. 3
- F6** Words in s. 3(1) substituted (18.1.2005) by [Housing Act 2004 \(c. 34\)](#), **ss. 210(2)**, 270(3)(a) (with s. 210(6))
- F7** Words in s. 3(1)(c) inserted (E.W.) (27.5.2013) by [Mobile Homes Act 2013 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 12(2)**, 15(3)
- F8** Words in s. 3(1)(c) omitted (E.W.) (5.11.2013) by virtue of [Mobile Homes \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 6\)](#), s. 64(1), **Sch. 4 para. 2(3)(a)** (with [Sch. 5 para. 7](#)) (this amendment is to be treated as not having effect until 1.10.2014 by virtue of [S.I. 2014/11](#), art. 3(2))
- F9** S. 3(1A)(1B) inserted (18.1.2005) by [Housing Act 2004 \(c. 34\)](#), **ss. 210(3)**, 270(3)(a) (with s. 210(6))
- F10** S. 3(1A)(1B) repealed (S.) (28.5.2007) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 1\)](#), **ss. 171(1)(b)(ii)**, 195(3) (with **ss. 171(2)**, 193); [S.S.I. 2007/270](#), art. 3
- F11** Words in s. 3(1A)(b) inserted (E.W.) (27.5.2013) by [Mobile Homes Act 2013 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 12(3)**, 15(3)
- F12** Words in s. 3(1A)(b) omitted (E.W.) (5.11.2013) by virtue of [Mobile Homes \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 6\)](#), s. 64(1), **Sch. 4 para. 2(3)(a)** (with [Sch. 5 para. 7](#)) (this amendment is to be treated as not having effect until 1.10.2014 by virtue of [S.I. 2014/11](#), art. 3(2))
- F13** S. 3(1AA) inserted (E.W.) (27.5.2013) by [Mobile Homes Act 2013 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 12(4)**, 15(3)
- F14** Words in s. 3(1AA) omitted (E.W.) (5.11.2013) by virtue of [Mobile Homes \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 6\)](#), s. 64(1), **Sch. 4 para. 2(3)(b)** (with [Sch. 5 para. 7](#)) (this amendment is to be treated as not having effect until 1.10.2014 by virtue of [S.I. 2014/11](#), art. 3(2))
- F15** Words in s. 3(1B) substituted (E.W.) (27.5.2013) by [Mobile Homes Act 2013 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 12(5)**, 15(3)
- F16** Words in s. 3(2) substituted (E.W.) (5.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), s. 263(2), **Sch. 8 para. 8**; [S.I. 2005/3175](#), art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F17** S. 3(3)(a)(b) and words substituted (18.1.2005) by [Housing Act 2004 \(c. 34\)](#), **ss. 210(4)**, 270(3)(a) (with s. 210(6)(7))
- F18** Words in s. 3(3) substituted (S.) (28.5.2007) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 1\)](#), **ss. 171(1)(b)(iii)**, 195(3) (with **ss. 171(2)**, 193); [S.S.I. 2007/270](#), art. 3
- F19** S. 3(4A) substituted (S.) (28.5.2007) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 1\)](#), **ss. 171(1)(b)(iv)**, 195(3) (with **ss. 171(2)**, 193); [S.S.I. 2007/270](#), art. 3
- F20** S. 3(4A) inserted (18.1.2005) by [Housing Act 2004 \(c. 34\)](#), **ss. 210(5)**, 270(3)(a) (with s. 210(6))

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 3(3): [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 289E** (as inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 54**) (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions) applies (S.)

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- C3** S. 3(3): [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 35](#) (in relation to liability on first and subsequent convictions) s. 38 (increase of fines) and s. 46 (substitution of references to levels on the standard scale) apply (E.W.)

#### **4 Provision for suspension of eviction orders.**

- (1) If in proceedings by the owner of a protected site the court makes an order for enforcing in relation thereto any such right as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 3 of this Act, the court may (without prejudice to any power apart from this section to postpone the operation or suspend the execution of an order, and subject to the following provisions of this section) suspend the enforcement of the order for such period not exceeding twelve months from the date of the order as the court thinks reasonable.
- (2) Where the court by virtue of this section suspends the enforcement of an order, it may impose such terms and conditions, including conditions as to the payment of rent or other periodical payments or of arrears of such rent or payments, as the court thinks reasonable.
- (3) The court may from time to time, on the application of either party, extend, reduce or terminate the period of suspension ordered by virtue of this section, or vary any terms or conditions imposed thereunder, but shall not extend the period of suspension for more than twelve months at a time.
- (4) In considering whether or how to exercise its powers under this section, the court shall have regard to all the circumstances, and in particular to the questions—
  - (a) whether the occupier of the caravan has failed, whether before or after the expiration or determination of the relevant residential contract, to observe any terms or conditions of that contract, any conditions of the site licence, or any reasonable rules made by the owner for the management and conduct of the site or the maintenance of caravans thereon;
  - (b) whether the occupier has unreasonably refused an offer by the owner to renew the residential contract or make another such contract for a reasonable period and on reasonable terms;
  - (c) whether the occupier has failed to make reasonable efforts to obtain elsewhere other suitable accommodation for his caravan (or, as the case may be, another suitable caravan and accommodation for it).
- (5) Where the court makes such an order as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section but suspends the enforcement of that order by virtue of this section, the court shall make no order for costs unless it appears to the court, having regard to the conduct of the owner or of the occupier, that there are special reasons for making such an order.
- (6) <sup>F21</sup>The court shall not suspend the enforcement of an order by virtue of this section <sup>F22</sup>if—
  - (a) no site licence under Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 (c. 62) is in force in respect of the site; and
  - (b) paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 to that Act does not apply;and where a site licence in respect of the site is expressed to expire at the end of a specified period, the period for which enforcement may be suspended by virtue of this section shall not extend beyond the expiration of the licence.