

Information Sheet - Offensive Weapons



Age Restricted Sales

What does the law say?

The age restriction on selling knives has recently changed. It is now an offence to sell any of the following to a person under the age of 18:

- A knife, a knife blade or razor blade
- An axe
- Any other article which has a blade or which is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person

This does not apply to:

- A folding pocket knife with a blade of less than 7.62cm (3 inches)
- A razor blade permanently held in a cartridge or similar housing
- It is an offence to market a knife in a way which indicates that it is suitable for combat or is likely to encourage violent behaviour involving the use of a knife as a weapon
- It is an offence to sell a flick knife to anyone, regardless of their age
- It is an offence to sell, let or hire a crossbow to a person under the age of 18.

Age Restricted Sales

What can I do to prevent illegal sales?

Please refer to the sheet entitled Preventing Underage Sales for further information relating to the prevention of illegal sales of age restricted products.

What are the penalties for making an illegal sale?

If an illegal sale of an offensive weapon is made to an underage person you could be fined up to £5,000 and/or six month prison sentence.

Where can I get further help?

If you require further assistance call Cardiff Trading Standards on 029 2087 2059 or your local police station on 029 20 222 111

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