

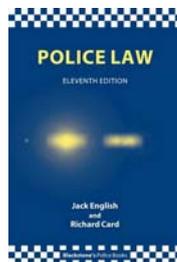
POLICE LAW

Jack English and Richard Card

Oxford University Press 2009

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Book review by Sally Ramage



Bible for police officers

Police Law is the bible for police officers and as English and Card have packed this edition to include all the new laws, it is an interesting exercise to see what has changed and what has not, in the eleventh edition of this police law book of 1116 pages, *which I think should be revised only every three years and not every two years as it at present*, using instead the softer, thinner stronger paper that is often used in larger manuals with a soft spine. This would also make the book lighter to handle.

2007 book chapters	2009 book chapters (unchanged headings =*)
General principles	*
Elements of criminal procedure	*
Police powers	*
Police questioning & the rights of suspects	*
Treatment, charging and bail of detainees	*
Identification methods	*
The law of evidence	*
The police	*
Traffic: General provisions	*
Use of vehicles	*
Control of vehicles	*
Public service vehicles	*
Goods vehicles	*
Lights and vehicles	*
Traffic accidents	*
Driving offences	*
Drinking or drug taking and driving	*

Children and young persons	*
Licensed Premises	*
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries	*
Aliens	*
Animals, Birds and Plants	*
Game laws	*
Firearms	*
Explosives	*
Railways	*
Pedlars, vagrancy and dealers	*
Non-fatal offences against the person	*
Disputes	*
Homicide and Abortion	*
Public order offences except relating to sport of industrial disputes	*
Public order offences relating to sport and to industrial disputes	*
Terrorism	*
Sexual offences	*
Offences relating to prostitution obscenity and indecent photographs	*
Drugs	*
Theft and related offences, robbery and blackmail	*
Criminal Damage	*
Burglary	*
Offences of fraud and corruption	*
Handling stolen goods and related offences	*
Forgery and counterfeiting	*
Preventive justice	*

Police Law's format essential remains a constant and includes both a general contents list and a detailed contents list, useful information, and even more useful, were this marvellous book also in compact disc format.

Important road traffic law

As to be expected, three hundred pages are devoted to road traffic law. With the powerful tool of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which can read vehicle number plates via cameras using optical character recognition software, police can see criminals' movements through their use of the roads, captures images to identify number plates. It uses optical character recognition to read the vehicle registration mark from the number plate however it is presented.

CCTV, ANPR and other police technology

ANPR systems can use images from dedicated cameras, which are primarily in vehicles or fixed sites, or existing video cameras, which have been modified, such as town centre closed circuit television cameras. Every police force in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, including the British Transport Police uses automatic number plate recognition, as does other Government

Department/ Agencies such as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Road Traffic law and rising crime rates

Traffic law is important and addressing traffic is even more important today because of the challenges of smaller budgets, competing resources, and rising crime rates. Nowadays motorists can move about in a safe manner because of police presence and road safety is necessary and effective in encouraging the efficient movement of goods and services, as well as people. For many communities, maximizing traffic flow continues to be an important issue whilst police presence can at the same time expose criminals, especially with the 'stop and search' regime.

Non-fatal offences against the person

Chapter 28 on this subject includes surprisingly, gunpowder offences. Section 28 of the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861 provides that:

'Anyone who unlawfully and maliciously, by the explosion of gunpowder or other explosive substances, burns, maims, disfigures, disables or does any grievous bodily harm to any person, is guilty of an offence.'

Sections 29, 30 and 64 also apply.

Violence

Experience shows that we can expect more violence in the home because of the harsher economic climate that has brought redundancies, home repossessions and no prospects of jobs for hundreds of thousands of young people in the United Kingdom. In harsh economic climates, children and animals are more often abandoned, women raped and wives beaten. The European Convention on Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act 1998 both can and have been used by individual victims of domestic violence to enforce compliance.

This is where police powers are most important as they keep the peace. For instance, section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 allows a police constable to enter premises to execute a warrant, arrest a person, recapture a person, to save life and limb or to prevent serious damage to property.

Conclusion

Police Law by Jack English and Richard Card remains an exceptional police law book which has earned the respect of all police in the United Kingdom and abroad. ENDS+

