



**Bille na nArm Tine agus na nArm Ionsaitheach
(Leasú), 2019**
Firearms and Offensive Weapons (Amendment) Bill 2019

Meabhrán Mínitheach
Explanatory Memorandum



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(LEASÚ), 2019
FIREARMS AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2019**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the maximum sentence that can be imposed upon a person who is convicted of an offence under section 9(1), (4) or (5) of the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act 1990.

Section 9 of the 1990 Act provides, in subsection (4), that where a person without lawful authority or reasonable excuse has with him in a public place any flick knife or any other article, aid or adapted for use in order to cause injury to or incapacitate a person, he shall be guilty of an offence.

In subsection (5) of section 9 it provides that where a person has with him in any public place any article intended by him unlawfully to cause injury to, incapacitate or intimidate any person either in a particular eventuality or otherwise, he shall also be guilty of an offence.

Under subsection (7) of section 9 a person guilty of these offences on indictment shall be exposed to a maximum sentence not exceeding 5 years imprisonment. There has been a significant increase in the seizure of knives in Ireland over the past two years and unfortunately there have been recent stabbings of young persons, including a fatal stabbing, revealing that there is a problem with young men carrying knives.

The purpose of this Bill is to deter the carrying of knives by increasing the maximum sentence that can be imposed upon a person found guilty of these offences from 5 years to 10 years.

*Jim O'Callaghan, TD
Meitheamh, 2019.*