



**Bille na nArm Tine agus na nArm Ionsaitheach
(Leasú), 2021**
Firearms and Offensive Weapons (Amendment) Bill 2021

*Meabhrán Míniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum*



**BILLE NA nARM TINE AGUS NA nARM IONSAITHEACH
(LEASÚ), 2021**
FIREARMS AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS (AMENDMENT)
BILL 2021

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.

Subsection (1) provides that where a person has possession of a knife in a public place he shall be guilty of an offence.

Subsection (4) provides 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.

Subsection (5) 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.

*Jim O'Callaghan TD
Márta, 2021.*