

Awards for Valour (Protection) Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by Gareth Johnson, are published separately as Bill 10 – EN.

Awards for Valour (Protection) Bill

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TO

Prohibit the wearing or public display, by a person not entitled to do so, of medals or insignia awarded for valour, with the intent to deceive.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Offence of wearing medals or insignia without entitlement

- (1) Subject to subsection (5), a person who, with intent to deceive, wears, or represents themselves as being entitled to wear an item specified by or under subsection (2) which they are not entitled to wear is guilty of an offence.
- (2) Those items are— 5
- (a) a military medal or insignia meeting the requirements of subsection (4);
 - (b) the George Cross, George Medal or Queen's Gallantry Medal;
 - (c) any other medal or insignia awarded for valour and designated by the Secretary of State by regulations; or
 - (d) an article or emblem resembling any item specified by or under paragraphs (a) to (c). 10
- (3) For the purposes of this section (subject to subsection (5)), "personally entitled" means being the person to whom the award in question was made.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, "military medal or insignia" means a medal, insignia, clasp, ribbon or bar or equivalent authorised by the Monarch or Defence Council awarded to a member of the United Kingdom's armed forces in connection with an act or acts of valour. 15
- (5) A person does not commit an offence under subsection (1) if the item is worn, or the person represents themselves as being entitled to wear it— 20
- (a) as part of a reconstruction or representation of historical events;
 - (b) as part of a filmed or theatrical or other live entertainment or production; or
 - (c) in honour of a family member who meets the requirements of subsection (3).

- (6) Any person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a period of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months, or a fine.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, “an act or acts of valour” includes—
- (a) involving significant risk and danger to life;
 - (b) qualifying for a campaign service medal; or
 - (c) otherwise involving sustained and intense combat.

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2 Regulations

No regulations shall be made under section 1 unless a draft of the regulations have been laid before and approved by a resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

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3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day after the day on which it receives Royal Assent.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Awards for Valour (Protection) Act 2017.

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To prohibit the wearing or public display, by a person not entitled to do so, of medals or insignia awarded for valour, with the intent to deceive.

Presented by Gareth Johnson.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 29 June 2016.*

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