CRIME AND COURTS ACT 2013

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BACKGROUND

Part 2: Courts and Justice

Section 43: Use of force in self-defence at place of residence

57. Section 43 amends section 76 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 so that the use of disproportionate force can be regarded as reasonable in the circumstances as the accused believed them to be when householders are acting to protect themselves or others from trespassers in their homes. The use of grossly disproportionate force would still not be permitted. The provisions also extend to people who live and work in the same premises and armed forces personnel who may live and work in buildings such as barracks for periods of time. The provisions will not cover other scenarios where the use of force might be required, for example when people are defending themselves from attack on the street, preventing crime or protecting property, but the current law on the use of reasonable force will continue to apply in these situations.