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Prohibit the wearing of certain face coverings; and for connected purposes.

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 Prohibition of face coverings

- (1) Subject to the exemptions in subsection (3), a person wearing a garment or other object intended by the wearer as its primary purpose to obscure the face in a public place shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a “public place” is as defined in section 9(1) of the Public Order Act 1936. 5
- (3) A person does not commit an offence under subsection (1) if the garment or other object is worn—
 - (a) pursuant to any legislative or regulatory provision;
 - (b) as a necessary part of any activity directly related to a person’s employment; 10
 - (c) for reasons of health or safety;
 - (d) for the purposes of a sporting activity;
 - (e) for the purposes of art, leisure or entertainment; or
 - (f) in a place of worship. 15
- (4) Any person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding Level 1 on the Standard Scale.

2 Removal of face coverings on private premises

- Where members of the public are licensed to access private premises for the purposes of the giving or receiving of goods or services, it shall not be an offence for the owner of such premises or his agents— 20
- (a) to request that a person wearing a garment or other object intended to obscure the face remove such garment or object; or

- (b) to require that a person refusing a request under subsection (a) leave the premises.

3 Removal of face coverings in the course of provision or receipt of public services

- (1) A person – 5
 - (a) providing a public service in person to a member of the public; or
 - (b) receiving a public service in person from a public official;shall remove any garment or other object intended by the wearer as its primary purpose to obscure the face unless such garment or other object is reasonably required for reasons of health or safety. 10
- (2) For the purposes of this section –
 - (a) a “public service” is any service provided to the public by or on behalf of any public agency or public enterprise of a legislative, administrative or judicial nature or in connection with public order or national security; and 15
 - (b) a “public official” is a person engaged in the provision of a public service.

4 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Face Coverings (Prohibition) Act 2013.
- (2) This Act comes into force two months after Royal Assent. 20
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

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To prohibit the wearing of certain face coverings; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Philip Hollobone
supported by
Mr Peter Bone and
Mr Christopher Chope.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 24 June 2013.*

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