

Three Acts that made predicting the future illegal.

The three main Acts of legislation that made predicting the future illegal were as follows: The Witchcraft Act 1735, Vagrancy Act 1824 and Fraudulent Medium Act 1951. The first of these is not available by searching the legislation website, whereas the other two can be found by searching www.legislation.gov.uk The information regarding the Witchcraft Act 1735 comes from the parliamentary archives.

The Witchcraft Act 1735 [Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

The Witchcraft Act 1735 was not the first Act to cover Witchcraft. Upon reading the information supplied by the parliamentary archives it appears this Act was preceded by the following: An Act against conjuration, witchcraft and dealing with evil and wicked spirits, an Act against conjurations, inchantments and witchcraft and finally Anentis Witchcrafts (Scotland) for punishing persons pretending exercise or use any kind of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration.

The title of the book this information originated from was not supplied by the parliamentary archives. As such, it can not be referenced in the correct manner. Nor can the pages supplied be added to this document without breaching copyright.

The Witchcraft Act 1735 formed part of the repeal of the earlier Acts, whilst keeping certain sections current and legal for the duration of the this Act. Gaining monies, goods, services, possessions etc directly or indirectly from witchcraft, sorcery, enchantments, conjuring, or telling fortunes (predicting the future) as well as using skill or knowledge in the occult or crafty science to recover lost or stolen items was re-established as being illegal and upon conviction the guilty person they would be imprisoned for a year, be taken to the market every three months to be publicly chastised for an hour and, or fined.

This Act repealed, at least in part, if not completely the previous Acts of legislation regarding witchcraft. However, was eventually repealed completely itself in 2008 by the consumer protection from unfair trading regulations.

The Vagrancy Act 1824. [Vagrancy Act 1824 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

The Vagrancy Act 1824 is still (in part) a working Act of legislation. It has not been fully repealed or incorporated into later legislation.

This Act consolidated and amended the laws relating to rogues & vagabonds, idle & disorderly people, incorrigible rogues, and other vagrants into one Act.

As this document is concerned with the legality of predicting the future, we will confine ourselves to the following two quotes from the original and 2011 revised editions.

Both of the following quotes can be found under section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824.

4 Persons committing certain offences to be deemed rogues and vagabonds.

Every person committing any of the offences herein-before mentioned, after having been convicted as an idle and disorderly person; [F4 every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose on any of his Majesty's subjects;]

This section was (repealed in Scotland) and incorporated into The Fraudulent Medium Act 1951.

every person wandering abroad, and endeavouring by the exposure of wounds or deformities to obtain or gather alms; every person going about as a gatherer or collector of alms, or endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind, under any false or fraudulent pretence . . .

This section does not appear to have been either repealed or incorporated into any other Act.

It is clear that the government continued to be concerned regarding people gaining monies, charitable contributions of any nature etc using false or fraudulent practices, especially where predicting the future was concerned.

As these sections are still present in the 2011 amendment, it is reasonable to assume that both sections were still enforceable under this Act until 2011. What is unclear to the author is the question regarding the ongoing legality of the second quoted section regarding the Act as it stands today.

Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951. [Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

The fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 is a very short legislation, much the same as the Witchcraft Act 1735 was also a short legislation.

Punishment of fraudulent mediums, &c.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person who—

(a) with intent to deceive purports to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or

(b) in purporting to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise such powers as aforesaid, uses any fraudulent device, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under the foregoing subsection unless it is proved that he acted for reward; and for the purposes of this section a person shall be deemed to act for reward if any money is paid, or other valuable thing given, in respect of what he does, whether to him or to any other person.

The wording between these three Acts of legislation clearly show that the government have been concerned regarding personal gain using predicting the future for over 200 years. Witchcrafts Acts in different forms have been around since 1542. In 1735, the government changed from witchcraft to the use of magical powers of predicting the future, which, was finally repealed between 2008 and 2011 depending on your reading of legislation.

