# Man charged over nunchucks highlights UK crackdown on offensive weapons



Officers conducting routine foot patrols in Davey Place, Norwich, encountered a significant incident on April 20. During their search, they discovered that a 38-year-old man, Nathaniel Ling, was in possession of a pair of nunchucks. This seizure led to Ling being charged with possession of an offensive weapon and a public order offence.

The use of nunchucks, often perceived more as martial arts training gear than weapons, raises questions about categorisation under British law. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, items classified as offensive weapons are strictly controlled. Ling's arrest reflects a broader pattern of recent enforcement actions targeting individuals found in possession of such weapons. Ling’s case was brought before Norwich Magistrates’ Court on May 2, where he was remanded on unconditional bail, awaiting his next court appearance scheduled for June 11.

This incident is not isolated; it reflects a growing trend in various UK towns concerning the possession of unconventional weapons. For instance, another recent case in Whittlesey involved a man charged with carrying a knuckleduster, highlighting a surge in police activity around offensive weapons in public places. Such incidents underscore the challenges local authorities face in balancing public safety with law enforcement's sometimes urgent response to weapons offences.

In a related context, various prosecutions have emerged across the UK concerning weapon possession. A Derry man was charged with possessing nunchucks alongside knuckle dusters, indicating that such cases are not confined to one region but rather represent a wider issue throughout the country. The legal outcomes of these cases reflect the seriousness with which courts are treating weapon possession, often resulting in significant penalties.

Authorities remain vigilant, not only in urban areas but also in smaller communities, to combat the presence of offensive weapons. Recently, Norwich faced additional incidents involving other types of offensive weapons, such as knives, further emphasising the need for strong policing strategies. Public safety remains a primary concern, leading to increased police presence and proactive searches.

As this ongoing situation develops, the judicial outcomes of such cases will likely inform public discourse around weapon possession laws and their implications for community safety. The case against Nathaniel Ling will be monitored closely, as the precedent it sets could influence future enforcement and legislative action regarding offensive weapons in the UK.

**Reference Map:**

1. Paragraph 1: Sources 1, 2
2. Paragraph 2: Source 1
3. Paragraph 3: Sources 2, 3
4. Paragraph 4: Source 4
5. Paragraph 5: Sources 5, 6, 7
6. Paragraph 6: Source 1

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147517.man-bail-nunchucks-seized-davey-place-norwich/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147517.man-bail-nunchucks-seized-davey-place-norwich/?ref=rss> - A 38-year-old man from Norwich was charged with possession of an offensive weapon and a public order offence after being found with nunchucks during a routine police search in Davey Place on April 20. He appeared in court on May 2 and was remanded on unconditional bail, with the next hearing scheduled for June 11.
3. <https://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/22854606.norwich-man-caught-knuckleduster-early-hours-whittlesey-charged-possession-offensive-weapon-public-place/> - A Norwich man was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place after being found with a knuckleduster during a police stop in Whittlesey. The incident occurred in the early hours of March 29, and the man is due to appear at Peterborough Magistrates’ Court on May 1.
4. <https://www.derrynow.com/news/local-news/1613772/derry-man-charged-with-possessing-nunchucks-and-knuckle-dusters-returned-for-trial.html> - A 43-year-old man from Derry was returned for trial to Derry Crown Court after being charged with possessing nunchucks and knuckle dusters, along with multiple drug-related offences. The charges stem from incidents between March and August 2021, with the trial scheduled for October 23.
5. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/24557131.man-32-charged-possession-knife-norwich/> - A 32-year-old man from Norwich was charged with two counts of possession of a knife following incidents on August 21 and August 30 in Cannell Green. He has been released on bail and is set to appear at Norwich Magistrates’ Court on October 18.
6. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/20893232.norwich-man-60-charged-firearms-offences-impersonating-police-officer/> - A 60-year-old man from Norwich was charged with possessing an offensive weapon, possessing an imitation firearm, and impersonating a police officer after armed police responded to reports of a man with a handgun in Cannell Green. He appeared in court via video link and was remanded in custody, with a Crown Court appearance scheduled for July 13.
7. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/20877624.norwich-man-jailed-five-years-stun-gun-disguised-torch/> - A 29-year-old man from Norwich was sentenced to five years in prison for possessing a prohibited weapon after being found with a stun gun disguised as a torch during a night out in the city. The sentencing took place at Norwich Crown Court, with the judge emphasizing the seriousness of the offence.