



# Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

## 1982 CHAPTER 45

### PART IV

#### OFFENCES, POWERS OF CONSTABLES, ETC.

##### *Offences of annoying, offensive, obstructive or dangerous behaviour*

#### **46 Soliciting and importuning by prostitutes.**

- (1) A prostitute (whether male or female) who for the purposes of prostitution—
- loiters in a public place;
  - solicits in a public place or in any other place so as to be seen from a public place; or
  - importunes any person who is in a public place,
- shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F1</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].
- (2) In subsection (1) above, “public place” has the same meaning as in section 133 of this Act but includes—
- any place to which at the material time the public are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise; and
  - any public conveyance other than a taxi or hire car within the meaning of section 23 of this Act.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 289G](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/2011.*

*Changes to legislation: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Cross Heading: Offences of annoying, offensive, obstructive or dangerous behaviour is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### 47 Urinating etc.

Any person who urinates or defecates in such circumstances as to cause, or to be likely to cause, annoyance to any other person shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F2</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].

##### Textual Amendments

**F2** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), s. 289G

#### <sup>F3</sup>48 Dogs: fouling of pavements.

##### Textual Amendments

**F3** S. 48 repealed (22.10.2003) by [Dog Fouling \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 12\)](#), ss. 17, 18(2)

#### 49 Dangerous and annoying creatures.

- (1) Any person who suffers or permits any creature in his charge to cause danger or injury to any other person who is in a public place or to give such person reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F4</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].
- (2) A district court may, if satisfied that any creature kept in the vicinity of any place where a person resides is giving that person, while in that place, reasonable cause for annoyance, make an order requiring the person keeping the creature to take, within such period as may be specified in the order, such steps (short of destruction of the creature) to prevent the continuance of the annoyance as may be so specified.
- (3) An application to a district court for an order under subsection (2) above may be made by any person.
- (4) Any person who fails to comply with an order under subsection (2) above shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F4</sup>level 3 on the standard scale].
- (5) The fact that there is a licence under the <sup>M1</sup>Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 in respect of a creature shall not of itself afford a defence in proceedings under this section relating to that creature.
- (6) Where a court convicts a person of an offence under this section or discharges him absolutely <sup>F5</sup>..., it may, whether or not (in the case of conviction) it imposes a penalty under subsection (1) or (4) above—
  - (a) subject to subsection (8) below, make such order as it sees fit as to the disposal of the creature to which the proceedings relate;
  - (b) authorise a constable, in pursuance of such an order, to take possession of the creature.
- (7) An order under subsection (6) above may, subject to any enactment relating to the protection or conservation of living things, be for the destruction of the creature to which it relates.

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- (8) No creature disposed of under an order under subsection (6) above shall be given or sold for the purposes of vivisection.

#### Textual Amendments

- F4** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 289G**  
**F5** Words in [s. 49\(6\)](#) repealed (1.2.2011) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), [s. 206\(1\)](#), **sch. 2 para. 35(2)**; S.S.I. 2010/413, art. 2, sch. (with art. 3(1))

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1976 c. 38.

## 50 Drunkenness.

- (1) Any person who, while not in the care or protection of a suitable person, is, in a public place, drunk and incapable of taking care of himself shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F6</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].
- (2) Any person who is drunk in a public place while in charge of a child under the age of 10 shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F6</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, if a child appears to the court to be under the age of 10, the child shall be deemed to be under that age unless the contrary is proved.
- (4) A constable may arrest a person for contravening subsection (2) above if he has reasonable cause to believe that the child in the charge of that person is under the age of 10.
- (5) Any person who is drunk in a public place while in possession of a firearm (including a crossbow, airgun, air rifle or air pistol) shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F6</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].
- (6) In this section, “public place” has the same meaning as in section 133 of this Act but includes—
- any place to which at the material time the public are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise; and
  - any public conveyance other than a taxi or hire car within the meaning of section 23 of this Act.

#### Textual Amendments

- F6** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 289G**

## 51 Obscene material.

- (1) Subject to subsection (4) below, any person who displays any obscene material in any public place or in any other place where it can be seen by the public shall be guilty of an offence under this section.

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(2) Subject to subsection (4) below, any person who publishes, sells or distributes or, with a view to its eventual sale or distribution, makes, prints, has or keeps any obscene material shall be guilty of an offence under this section.

[<sup>F7</sup>(2A) Subject to subsection (4) below, any person who—

- (a) is responsible for the inclusion of any obscene material in a programme included in a programme service; or
- (b) with a view to its eventual inclusion in a programme so included, makes, prints, has or keeps any obscene material,

shall be guilty of an offence under this section.]

(3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the prescribed sum or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding [<sup>F8</sup>6 months] or to both or, on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding [<sup>F8</sup>3 years] or to both.

(4) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under this section if he proves that he had used all due diligence to avoid committing the offence.

(5) Under an indictment for or on a complaint of a breach of subsection (1) above, the court may, if satisfied that the person accused is guilty of an offence under section 1(1) of the <sup>M2</sup>Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981 (offence of public display of indecent matter), convict him of a breach of the said section 1(1).

(6) Nothing in this section applies in relation to any matter—

- (a) . . . . .<sup>F9</sup>
- (b) included in a performance of a play (within the meaning of the <sup>M3</sup>Theatres Act 1968).

(7) For section 5(4)(b) of the Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981 (saving) there shall be substituted the following—

“(b) section 51 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.”

(8) In this section—

“material” includes any book, magazine, bill, paper, print, film, tape, disc or other kind of recording (whether of sound or visual images or both), photograph, drawing, painting, representation, model or figure . . .<sup>F10</sup>;

“photograph” includes the negative as well as the positive version;

“public place” has the same meaning as in section 133 of this Act except that it includes any place to which at the material time the public are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise;

“prescribed sum” has the same meaning as in [<sup>F11</sup>section 225(8) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995];

[<sup>F12</sup> “programme” and “programme service” have the same meaning as in the Broadcasting Act 1990;]

and the reference to publishing includes a reference to . . .<sup>F13</sup> playing, projecting or otherwise reproducing [<sup>F14</sup>, or, where the material is data stored electronically, transmitting that data].

#### Textual Amendments

**F7** S. 51(2A) inserted by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), **ss. 4(6), 87(6), 163(2)**

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- F8** Words in s. 51(3) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 8; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1)
- F9** S. 51(6)(a) repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 163(3), 203(3), Sch. 21 (with ss. 4(6), 87(6), Sch. 12 Pt. II para. 1)
- F10** Words added by Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984 (c. 46, SIF 96), s. 26(b) and repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 163(4)(a), 203(3), Sch. 21 (with ss. 4(6), 87(6), Sch. 12 Pt. II para. 1)
- F11** S. 51(8): words in definition of “prescribed sum” substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 40, ss. 5, 7(2), Sch. 4 para. 44(2)
- F12** Definitions inserted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 4(6), 87(6), 163(4)(b)
- F13** Word inserted by Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984 (c. 46, SIF 96), s. 26(c) and repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 163(4)(c), 203(3), Sch. 21 (with ss. 4(6), 87(6), Sch. 12 Pt. II para. 1)
- F14** Words in s. 51(8) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 168(1), Sch. 9 para. 20; S.I. 1995/127, art. 2

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** The text of ss. 16, 18(11), 51(7) and 52(6) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Marginal Citations

- M2** 1981 c. 42.  
**M3** 1968 c. 54.

## 52 Indecent photographs etc. of children.

(1) Any person who—

- (a) takes, or permits to be taken [F15 or makes], any indecent photograph [F16 or pseudo-photograph of a child]
- (b) distributes or shows such an indecent photograph [F17 or pseudo-photograph];
- (c) has in his possession such an indecent photograph [F17 or pseudo-photograph] with a view to its being distributed or shown by himself or others:  
or
- (d) publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that the advertiser distributes or shows such an indecent photograph [F17 or pseudo-photograph], or intends to do so

shall be guilty of an offence under this section.

(2) [F18] In subsection (1) above “child” means, subject to subsection (2B) below, a person under the age of [F19] 18; and] in proceedings under this section a person is to be taken as having been a child at any material time if it appears from the evidence as a whole that he was then under the age of [F19] 18].

[F20] (2A) In this section, “pseudo-photograph” means an image, whether produced by computer-graphics or otherwise howsoever, which appears to be a photograph.

(2B) If the impression conveyed by a pseudo-photograph is that the person shown is a child, the pseudo-photograph shall be treated for all purposes of this Act as showing a child and so shall a pseudo-photograph where the predominant impression conveyed is that the person shown is a child notwithstanding that some of the physical characteristics shown are those of an adult.

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- (2C) In this section, references to an indecent pseudo-photograph include—
- (a) a copy of an indecent pseudo-photograph;
  - (b) data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into [F21an indecent pseudo-photograph] .]
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding [F226 months] or to a fine not exceeding the prescribed sum within the meaning of [F23section 225(8) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995] (at the passing of this Act £1,000) or to both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding [F24[F2510 years]] or to a fine or to both.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, a person is to be regarded as distributing an indecent photograph [F26 or pseudo-photograph] if he parts with possession of it to, or exposes or offers it for acquisition by, another person.
- (5) Where a person is charged with an offence under subsection (1)(b) or (c) above, it shall be a defence for him to prove—
- (a) that he had a legitimate reason for distributing or showing the photograph [F26 or pseudo-photograph] or (as the case may be) having it in his possession; or
  - (b) that he had not himself seen the photograph [F26 or pseudo-photograph] and did not know, nor had any cause to suspect, it to be indecent.
- (6) In paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the M4 Visiting Forces Act 1952 (offences against the person in the case of which a member of a visiting force is in certain circumstances not liable to be tried by a United Kingdom court) the word “ and” immediately preceding sub-paragraph (b)(iii) shall be omitted and after the said sub-paragraph (b)(iii) there shall be added—
- “(iv) section 52(1)(a) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.”
- F27(7) .....
- (8) In this section—
- (a) references to an indecent photograph include an indecent film, a copy of an indecent photograph or film and an indecent photograph comprised in a film;
  - (b) a photograph (including one comprised in a film) shall, if it shows a child and is indecent, be treated for all purposes of this section as an indecent photograph of a child;
  - [F28(c) references to a photograph include—
    - (i) the negative as well as the positive version; and
    - (ii) data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a photograph.]
    - (d) “film” includes any form of video-recording.
- [F29(9) In this section, references to a photograph also include a tracing or other image, whether made by electronic or other means (of whatever nature), which is not itself a photograph or pseudo-photograph but which is derived from the whole or part of a photograph or pseudo-photograph (or a combination of either or both).
- (10) And subsection (2B) applies in relation to such an image as it applies in relation to a pseudo-photograph.]

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### Textual Amendments

- F15** Words in s. 52(1)(a) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(a)(i) (with Sch. 9 para. 17)
- F16** Words in s. 52(1)(a) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(a)(ii) (with Sch. 9 para. 17)
- F17** Words in s. 52(1)(b)(c)(d) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(b); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F18** Words in s. 52(2) inserted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(c); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F19** Word in s. 52(2) substituted (7.10.2005) by Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 9), ss. 16(2), 20(2); S.S.I. 2005/480, art. 2
- F20** S. 52(2A)-(2C) added (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(d); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F21** Words in s. 52(2C)(b) substituted (13.12.2010) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), ss. 41(1)(a)(i), 206(1); S.S.I. 2010/413, art. 2, sch.
- F22** Words in s. 52(3)(a) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(e)(i); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F23** Words in s. 52(3) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 40, ss. 5, 7(2), **Sch. 4 para. 44(3)**
- F24** Words in s. 52(3)(b) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(e)(ii); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F25** Words in s. 52(3)(b) substituted (27.6.2003) by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 7), ss. 19(1)(a), 89(2); S.S.I. 2003/288, art. 2, sch.
- F26** Words in s. 52(4)(5)(a)(b) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(f); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F27** S. 52(7) repealed (13.12.2010) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), s. 206(1), sch. 7 para. 13; S.S.I. 2010/413, art. 2, sch.
- F28** S. 52(8)(c) substituted (3.2.1995) by 1994 c. 33, s. 84(6)(g); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F29** S. 52(9)(10) added (13.12.2010) by Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 13), ss. 41(1)(a)(ii), 206(1); S.S.I. 2010/413, art. 2, sch.

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 52(2)-(2C) applied (1.5.2004) by Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42), s. 141, **Sch. 3 para. 97(b)**; S.S.I. 2004/138, art. 2; S.I. 2004/874, art. 2
- C3** The text of ss. 16, 18(11), 51(7) and 52(6) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.
- C4** S. 52(8) applied (1.5.2004) by Sexual Offences Act 2003 (c. 42), s. 141, **Sch. 3 para. 97(b)**; S.S.I. 2004/138, art. 2; S.I. 2004/874, art. 2

### Marginal Citations

- M4** 1952 c. 67.

## [<sup>F30</sup> 52A Possession of indecent photographs of children.

- (1) It is an offence for a person to have any indecent photograph [<sup>F31</sup> or pseudo-photograph of a child] in his possession.
- (2) Where a person is charged with an offence under subsection (1), it shall be a defence for him to prove—
  - (a) that he had a legitimate reason for having the photograph [<sup>F32</sup> or pseudo-photograph] in his possession; or
  - (b) that he had not himself seen the photograph [<sup>F32</sup> or pseudo-photograph] and did not know, nor had any cause to suspect, it to be indecent; or

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- (c) that the photograph [<sup>F32</sup>or pseudo-photograph] was sent to him without any prior request made by him or on his behalf and that he did not keep it for an unreasonable time.
- (3) A person shall be liable
- <sup>F33</sup>(a) [ on summary conviction of an offence under this section to [<sup>F34</sup>imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months or to] a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale [<sup>F35</sup>“or to both.”].
- <sup>F36</sup>(b) [ on conviction on indictment of such an offence to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years or to a fine or to both.]
- (4) Subsections (2) [<sup>F37</sup>to (2C)] [<sup>F38</sup>and (8) to (10)] of section 52 of this Act shall have effect for the purposes of this section as they have for the purposes of that section.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F30** S. 52A inserted by [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(c. 33, SIF 39:1, 2\)](#) s. 161(1)(2)
- F31** Words in s. 52A(1) substituted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 84\(7\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F32** words in s. 52A(2)(a)-(c) inserted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 84\(7\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F33** Words in s. 52A(3) renumbered as s. 52A(3)(a) (27.6.2003) by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 7\)](#), [ss. 19\(1\)\(b\)](#), 89(2); S.S.I. 2003/288, art. 2, sch.
- F34** Words in s. 52A(3) inserted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 84\(7\)\(c\)\(i\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F35** Words in s. 52A(3) added (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 84\(7\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F36** S. 52A(3)(b) inserted (27.6.2003) by [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 7\)](#), [ss. 19\(1\)\(b\)](#), 89(2); S.S.I. 2003/288, art. 2, sch.
- F37** Words in s. 52A(4) inserted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33, s. 84\(7\)\(d\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F38** Words in s. 52A(4) substituted (13.12.2010) by [Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 13\)](#), [ss. 41\(1\)\(b\)](#), 206(1); S.S.I. 2010/413, art. 2, sch.

#### <sup>F39</sup>52B Sections 52 and 52A: exceptions for photographs of 16 and 17 year olds

- (1) If subsection (2) below applies, the accused is not guilty of an offence under section 52(1)(a) of this Act of taking or making an indecent photograph of a child.
- (2) This subsection applies if—
- (a) either—
- (i) the photograph was of the child aged 16 or over; or
- (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so;
- (b) at the time of the offence charged or at the time when the accused obtained the photograph, the accused and the child were—
- (i) married to or civil partners of each other; or
- (ii) partners in an established relationship; and
- (c) either—
- (i) the child consented to the photograph being taken or made; or
- (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so.
- (3) If subsection (4) below applies, the accused is not guilty of an offence under section 52(1)(b) of this Act relating to an indecent photograph of a child.
- (4) This subsection applies if—
- (a) either—



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- (i) the photograph was of the child aged 16 or over; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so;
  - (b) at the time of the offence charged or at the time when the accused obtained the photograph, the accused and the child were—
    - (i) married to or civil partners of each other; or
    - (ii) partners in an established relationship;
  - (c) either—
    - (i) the child consented to the photograph's being taken or made; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so; and
  - (d) the showing or distributing of the photograph was only to the child.
- (5) If subsection (6) below applies, the accused is not guilty of an offence under section 52(1)(c) of this Act relating to an indecent photograph of a child.
- (6) This subsection applies if—
  - (a) either—
    - (i) the photograph was of the child aged 16 or over; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so;
  - (b) at the time of the offence charged or at the time when the accused obtained the photograph, the accused and the child were—
    - (i) married to or civil partners of each other; or
    - (ii) partners in an established relationship;
  - (c) either—
    - (i) the child consented to the photograph's being in the accused's possession; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so; and
  - (d) the accused had the photograph in his possession with a view to its being distributed or shown only to the child.
- (7) If subsection (8) below applies, the accused is not guilty of an offence under section 52A of this Act relating to an indecent photograph of a child.
- (8) This subsection applies if—
  - (a) either—
    - (i) the photograph was of the child aged 16 or over; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so;
  - (b) at the time of the offence charged or at the time when the accused obtained the photograph, the accused and the child were—
    - (i) married to or civil partners of each other; or
    - (ii) partners in an established relationship; and
  - (c) either—
    - (i) the child consented to the photograph's being in the accused's possession; or
    - (ii) the accused reasonably believed that to be so.
- (9) Subsections (2), (4), (6) and (8) above apply whether the photograph showed the child alone or with the accused, but not if it showed any other person.

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#### Textual Amendments

**F39** Ss. 52B, 52C inserted (7.10.2005) by [Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 9\)](#), **ss. 16(3)**, 20(2); S.S.I. 2005/480, art. 2

### 52C Section 52B: proof of exceptions

- (1) This section applies for the purpose of determining whether a matter within a paragraph of section 52B(2), (4), (6) or (8) of this Act is the case.
- (2) If sufficient evidence is adduced to raise an issue as to whether the matter is the case, it shall be held to be the case, except where subsection (3) below applies.
- (3) This subsection applies where the prosecution proves beyond reasonable doubt that the matter is not the case.
- (4) Otherwise, the matter shall be held not to be the case.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F39** Ss. 52B, 52C inserted (7.10.2005) by [Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 9\)](#), **ss. 16(3)**, 20(2); S.S.I. 2005/480, art. 2

### 53 Obstruction by pedestrians.

Any person who, being on foot in any public place—

- (a) obstructs, along with another or others, the lawful passage of any other person and fails to desist on being required to do so by a constable in uniform, or
- (b) wilfully obstructs the lawful passage of any other person

shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F40</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].

#### Textual Amendments

**F40** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 289G**

### 54 Playing instruments, singing, playing radios, etc.

- (1) Any person who—
  - (a) sounds or plays any musical instrument;
  - (b) sings or performs; or
  - (c) operates any radio or television receiver, record player, tape-recorder or other sound producing device
 so as to give any other person reasonable cause for annoyance and fails to desist on being required to do so by a constable in uniform, shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £50.
- (2) This section is without prejudice to any offence under section 62 of the <sup>M5</sup>Control of Pollution Act 1974 (operation of loudspeakers in streets).

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[<sup>F41</sup>(2A) Where a constable reasonably suspects that an offence under subsection (1) above has been committed in relation to a musical instrument or in relation to such a device as is mentioned in paragraph (c) of that subsection, he may enter any premises on which he reasonably suspects that instrument or device to be and seize any such instrument or device he finds there.

(2B) A constable may use reasonable force in the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (2A) above.

(2C) Schedule 2A to this Act (which makes provision in relation to the retention and disposal of property seized under subsection (2A) above) shall have effect.]

(3) Subsection (1) above shall not apply to the operation of a loudspeaker—

- (a) for police, [<sup>F42</sup>fire-fighting] or ambulance purposes, by [<sup>F43</sup>Scottish Water] in the exercise of any of its functions, or by a local authority within its area;
- (b) for communicating with persons on a vessel for the purpose of directing the movement of that or any other vessel;
- (c) if the loudspeaker forms part of a public telephone system;
- (d) if the loudspeaker—
  - (i) is in or fixed to a vehicle, and
  - (ii) is operated solely for the entertainment of or for communicating with the driver or a passenger of the vehicle or, where the loudspeaker is or forms part of the horn or similar warning instrument of the vehicle, solely for giving warning to other traffic, and
  - (iii) is so operated as not to give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity;
- (e) otherwise than on a [<sup>F44</sup>road], by persons employed in connection with a transport undertaking used by the public in a case where the loudspeaker is operated solely for making announcements to passengers or prospective passengers or to other persons so employed;
- (f) by a travelling showman on land which is being used for the purposes of a pleasure fair;
- (g) in case of emergency.

<sup>F45</sup> .....

[<sup>F46</sup>(4) In subsection (3)(a), the reference to fire-fighting purposes is a reference to—

- (a) the purposes of a relevant authority (as defined in section 6 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 5)); or
- (b) fire-fighting functions of any other employer of fire-fighters.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F41** S. 54(2A)-(2C) inserted (1.12.1998) by 1998 c. 37, s. 24(2); S.I. 1998/2327, art. 2(1)

**F42** Words in s. 54(3)(a) substituted (2.8.2005) by Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 5), s. 90, sch. 3 para. 11(a) (with s. 77); S.S.I. 2005/392, art. 2(k)

**F43** Words in s. 54(3)(a) substituted (1.4.2002) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 3), s. 71(2), Sch. 7 para. 13(a), (with s. 67); S.S.I. 2002/118, art. 2

**F44** Word substituted by Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 54, SIF 108), s. 156(1), Sch. 9 para. 87(4)

**F45** Words in s. 54(3) repealed (1.4.2002) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 3), s. 71(2), Sch. 7 para. 13(b), (with s. 67); S.S.I. 2002/118, art. 2

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**F46** S. 54(4) inserted (2.8.2005) by [Fire \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 5\)](#), s. 90, [sch. 3 para. 11\(b\)](#) (with s. 77); [S.S.I. 2005/392](#), art. 2(k)

#### Marginal Citations

**M5** 1974 c. 40.

## 55 Touting.

(1) Any person who—

(a) in a public place—

(i) touts for the purpose of selling or advertising anything or otherwise obtaining custom so as to give any other person reasonable cause for annoyance; or

(ii) importunes any other person for that purpose so as to give that, or any other, person reasonable cause for annoyance; and

(b) fails to desist when required to do so by a constable in uniform,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F47</sup>level 2 on the standard scale].

#### Textual Amendments

**F47** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 289G](#)

## 56 Fires.

Any person who lays or lights a fire in a public place so as to endanger any other person or give him reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance or so as to endanger any property shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F48</sup>level 3 on the standard scale].

#### Textual Amendments

**F48** Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\)](#), [s. 289G](#)

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