



Public Order Act 1986

CHAPTER 64

PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1986

PART I

NEW OFFENCES

- 1 Riot.
- 2 Violent disorder.
- 3 Affray.
- 4 Fear or provocation of violence.
- 4A Intentional harassment, alarm or distress.
- 5 Harassment, alarm or distress.
- 6 Mental element: miscellaneous.
- 7 Procedure: miscellaneous.
- 8 Interpretation.
- 9 Offences abolished.
- 10 Construction of other instruments.

PART II

PROCESSIONS AND ASSEMBLIES

- 11 Advance notice of public processions.
- 12 Imposing conditions on public processions.
- 13 Prohibiting public processions.
- 14 Imposing conditions on public assemblies.
- 14ZA Imposing conditions on one-person protests
- 14A Prohibiting trespassory assemblies.
- 14B Offences in connection with trespassory assemblies and arrest therefor.
- 14C Stopping persons from proceeding to trespassory assemblies.
- 15 Delegation.

Changes to legislation: Public Order Act 1986 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 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) View outstanding changes

16 Interpretation.

PART III

RACIAL HATRED

Meaning of “racial hatred”

17 Meaning of “racial hatred”.

Acts intended or likely to stir up racial hatred

- 18 Use of words or behaviour or display of written material.
- 19 Publishing or distributing written material.
- 20 Public performance of play.
- 21 Distributing, showing or playing a recording.
- 22 Broadcasting or including programme in cable programme service.

Racially inflammatory material

- 23 Possession of racially inflammatory material.
- 24 Powers of entry and search.
- 25 Power to order forfeiture.

Supplementary provisions

- 26 Savings for reports of parliamentary or judicial proceedings.
- 27 Procedure and punishment.
- 28 Offences by corporations.
- 29 Interpretation.

PART 3A

HATRED AGAINST PERSONS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS OR GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Meaning of “religious hatred” and “hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation”

- 29A Meaning of “religious hatred”
- 29AB Meaning of “hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation”

Acts intended to stir up religious hatred or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation

- 29B Use of words or behaviour or display of written material
- 29C Publishing or distributing written material
- 29D Public performance of play
- 29E Distributing, showing or playing a recording
- 29F Broadcasting or including programme in programme service

Inflammatory material

- 29G Possession of inflammatory material
- 29H Powers of entry and search
- 29I Power to order forfeiture
- 29J Protection of freedom of expression
- 29JA Protection of freedom of expression (sexual orientation)

Supplementary provisions

- 29K Savings for reports of parliamentary or judicial proceedings

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- 29L Procedure and punishment
- 29M Offences by corporations
- 29N Interpretation

PART IV

30–37

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- 38 Contamination of or interference with goods with intention of causing public alarm or anxiety, etc.
- 39 Power to direct trespassers to leave land.
- 40 Amendments, repeals and savings.
- 41 Commencement.
- 42 Extent
- 43 Short title.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Sporting Events

Part I — ENGLAND AND WALES

Introduction

- 1 The Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 shall...

Vehicles

- 2 The following shall be inserted after section 1 (offences in...

Fireworks etc.

- 3 The following shall be inserted after section 2 (offences in...

Licensing etc.

- 4 The following shall be inserted after section 5— Private facilities...

Supplementary

- 5 In sections 2 and 3, after subsection (1) insert—
- 6 In section 7(3) (power to stop and search vehicles), after...
- 7 (1) Section 8 (penalties) shall be amended as follows.

Minor amendment

- 8 Section 3(9) (notice varying order about sale or supply of...
Part II — SCOTLAND

Introduction

- 9 Part V of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (sporting...

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Vehicles

- 10 After section 70 there shall be inserted the following— Alcohol...
- 11 In section 71 (defences in connection with carriage of alcohol)...
- 12 In section 75 (police powers of enforcement) for “or 70”...
- 13 In section 77 (interpretation of Part V)—

Fireworks etc.

- 14 (1) After section 72 there shall be inserted the following—...

SCHEDULE 2 — Other Amendments

Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 (c.86)

- 1

Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (c.14)

- 2 In section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953...

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (c.45)

- 3 (1) Part V of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982...

Criminal Justice Act 1982 (c.48)

- 4 The following shall be inserted at the end of Part...
- 5
- 6

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (c.60)

- 7 In section 17(1)(c) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act...

SCHEDULE 3 — Repeals

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 12(8) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 12(10) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 13(11) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 13(13) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 14(8) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 14(10) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 14B(5) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 14B(7) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 37\(5\)\(b\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4B inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 1](#)