



Public Order Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 64

[^{F1}PART 3A

HATRED AGAINST PERSONS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS [^{F1}OR GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION]

[^{F1}Supplementary provisions

Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 3A inserted (E.W.) (1.10.2007 except so far as relating to the insertion of ss. 29B(3), 29H(2), 29I(2) (b)(4)) by [Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. 1, 3(2), [Sch.](#); S.I. 2007/2490, [art. 2](#)

29K Savings for reports of parliamentary or judicial proceedings

- (1) Nothing in this Part applies to a fair and accurate report of proceedings in Parliament [^{F2}, in the Scottish Parliament or in the National Assembly for Wales].
- (2) Nothing in this Part applies to a fair and accurate report of proceedings publicly heard before a court or tribunal exercising judicial authority where the report is published contemporaneously with the proceedings or, if it is not reasonably practicable or would be unlawful to publish a report of them contemporaneously, as soon as publication is reasonably practicable and lawful.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 29K(1) substituted (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 15](#)

Changes to legislation: Public Order Act 1986, Cross Heading: Supplementary provisions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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

29L Procedure and punishment

- (1) No proceedings for an offence under this Part may be instituted ^{F3}... except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.
- (2) For the purposes of the rules ^{F3}... against charging more than one offence in the same count or information, each of sections 29B to 29G creates one offence.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this Part is liable—
 - (a) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years or a fine or both;
 - (b) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [^{F4}12 months] or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both.

[In subsection (3)(b) the reference to 12 months shall be read as a reference to 6 months ^{F5}(4) in relation to an offence committed before [^{F6}2 May 2022].]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 29L(1)(2) repealed (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 149, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 16\(2\)](#), [Sch. 28 Pt. 5](#)
- F4** Words in s. 29L(3)(b) substituted (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 16\(3\)](#)
- F5** S. 29L(4) inserted (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 16\(4\)](#)
- F6** Words in s. 29L(4) substituted (28.4.2022) by [The Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(Commencement No. 33\) and Sentencing Act 2020 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/500\)](#), regs. 1(2), 5(1), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

29M Offences by corporations

- (1) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under this Part and it is shown that the offence was committed with the consent or connivance of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body, or a person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as it applies to a director.

29N Interpretation

In this Part—

“distribute”, and related expressions, shall be construed in accordance with section 29C(2) (written material) and section 29E(2) (recordings);

“dwelling” means any structure or part of a structure occupied as a person's home or other living accommodation (whether the occupation is separate or shared with others) but does not include any part not so occupied, and for this purpose “structure” includes a tent, caravan, vehicle, vessel or other temporary or movable structure;

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[^{F7}“hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation” has the meaning given by section 29AB;]

“programme” means any item which is included in a programme service;

“programme service” has the same meaning as in the Broadcasting Act 1990;

“publish”, and related expressions, in relation to written material, shall be construed in accordance with section 29C(2);

“religious hatred” has the meaning given by section 29A;

“recording” has the meaning given by section 29E(2), and “play” and “show”, and related expressions, in relation to a recording, shall be construed in accordance with that provision;

“written material” includes any sign or other visible representation.]

Textual Amendments

- F7** [S. 29N](#): definition of "hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation" inserted (23.3.2010) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(7), [Sch. 16 para. 17](#); S.I. 2010/712, [art. 2\(d\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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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](#)