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## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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### 1987 No. 463

## The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

### PART III

#### STIRRING UP HATRED OR AROUSING FEAR

*Acts intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear*

#### **Possession of matter intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear**

**13.**—(1) A person who has in his possession written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting, or a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting, with a view to—

- (a) in the case of written material, its being displayed, published, distributed,<sup>[F1]</sup> or included in a programme service], whether by himself or another; or
- (b) in the case of a recording, its being distributed, shown, played,<sup>[F1]</sup> or included in a programme service], whether by himself or another,

is guilty of an offence if he intends hatred to be stirred up or fear to be aroused thereby or, having regard to all the circumstances, hatred is likely to be stirred up or fear is likely to be aroused thereby.

(2) For this purpose regard shall be had to such display, publication, distribution, showing, playing,<sup>[F1]</sup> or inclusion in a programme service] as he has, or it may reasonably be inferred that he has, in view.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under this Article it is a defence for an accused who is not shown to have intended to stir up hatred or arouse fear to prove that he was not aware of the content of the written material or recording and did not suspect, and had no reason to suspect, that it was threatening, abusive or insulting.

*Para. (4) rep. 1990 c. 42*

**F1** 1990 c. 42

**Changes to legislation:**

The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Section 13 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 January 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Instrument amended by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(1\)Sch.3 para.3](#)

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

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

- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- arts.5(2)66A7(1) revoked by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)