
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1988 No. 1849

The Malicious Communications(Northern Ireland) Order 1988

Offence of sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety

- 3.—(1) Any person who sends to another person—
- (a) a letter or other article which conveys—
 - (i) a message which is indecent or grossly offensive;
 - (ii) a threat; or
 - (iii) information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender; or
 - (b) any other article which is, in whole or part, of an indecent or grossly offensive nature,
- is guilty of an offence if his purpose, or one of his purposes, in sending it is that it should, so far as falling within sub-paragraph (a) or (b), cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or to any other person to whom he intends that it or its contents or nature should be communicated.
- (2) A person is not guilty of an offence by virtue of paragraph (1)(a)(ii) if he shows—
- (a) that the threat was used to reinforce a demand which he believed he had reasonable grounds for making; and
 - (b) that he believed that the use of the threat was a proper means of reinforcing the demand.
- (3) In this Article references to sending include references to delivering and to causing to be sent or delivered.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.