



Theft Act 1968

1968 CHAPTER 60

Fraud and blackmail

21 Blackmail.

- (1) A person is guilty of blackmail if, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, he makes any unwarranted demand with menaces; and for this purpose a demand with menaces is unwarranted unless the person making it does so in the belief—
 - (a) that he has reasonable grounds for making the demand; and
 - (b) that the use of the menaces is a proper means of reinforcing the demand.
- (2) The nature of the act or omission demanded is immaterial, and it is also immaterial whether the menaces relate to action to be taken by the person making the demand.
- (3) A person guilty of blackmail shall on conviction on indictment be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Annotations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 21 extended (2.10.1991) by [Nuclear Material \(Offences\) Act 1983 \(c. 18, SIF 8\)](#), **ss. 1(1)(d), 8(2)**;
[S.I. 1991/1716](#), **art. 2**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Theft Act 1968, Section 21.