



Criminal Law Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 45

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

51 Bomb hoaxes.

- (1) A person who—
- (a) places any article in any place whatever; or
 - (b) dispatches any article by post, rail or any other means whatever of sending things from one place to another,
- with the intention (in either case) of inducing in some other person a belief that it is likely to explode or ignite and thereby cause personal injury or damage to property is guilty of an offence.
- In this subsection “article” includes substance.
- (2) A person who communicates any information which he knows or believes to be false to another person with the intention of inducing in him or any other person a false belief that a bomb or other thing liable to explode or ignite is present in any place or location whatever is guilty of an offence.
- (3) For a person to be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) above it is not necessary for him to have any particular person in mind as the person in whom he intends to induce the belief mentioned in that subsection.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [^{F1}six months] or to a fine not exceeding £1,000, or both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [^{F1}seven years].

Changes to legislation: Criminal Law Act 1977, Section 51 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 May 2023. 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

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 51(4)(a)(b) substituted (31. 10. 1991) (with saving E.W.) by [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), [s. 26\(4\)](#), (with ss. 28, 101(1), Sch. 12 para. 7); [S.I. 1991/2208](#), art. 2(4), [Sch.3](#).

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

- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

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

- s. 38A(5)(ia) by [2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 55](#)
- s. 38B(5)(a) by [2000 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 56](#)