



Telecommunications Act 1984

1984 CHAPTER 12

PART II

PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Offences

43 Improper use of public telecommunication system.

[^{F1}(1) A person who—

- (a) sends, by means of a public telecommunication system, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or
- (b) sends by those means, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another, a message that he knows to be false or persistently makes use for that purpose of a public telecommunication system,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to [^{F2}imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or both].

- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply to anything done in the course of providing a [^{F3}programme service (within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1990)].

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 43 repealed (25.7.2003 for specified purposes, 29.12.2003 otherwise) by [Communications Act 2003](#) (c. 21), ss. 406, 408, 411, [Sch. 19\(1\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#), [Sch. 19\(1\)](#) Note 1); S.I. 2003/1900, arts. 1(2), [2\(1\)](#), 3(1), [Sch. 1](#) (with art. 3(2) (as amended (8.12.2003) by S.I. 2003/3142, art. 1(3))); S.I. 2003/3142, [art. 3](#), [Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)
- F2** Words in s. 43(1) substituted (3.2.1995) by [1994 c. 33](#), s. [92\(1\)\(2\)](#); S.I. 1995/127, art. 2(1), [Sch. 1](#)
- F3** Words substituted by [Broadcasting Act 1990](#) (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 203(1), [Sch. 20 para. 38\(4\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Telecommunications Act 1984, Section 43.