



## 2022 CHAPTER 17

### *Offences*

#### **Offence of threatening or abusive behaviour**

2.—(1) A person (“A”) commits an offence if—

- (a) A behaves in a threatening or abusive manner,
- (b) the behaviour would be likely to cause a reasonable person to suffer fear or alarm, and
- (c) A intends by the behaviour to cause fear or alarm or is reckless as to whether the behaviour causes fear or alarm.

(2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) to show that the behaviour was reasonable in the particular circumstances.

(3) Subsection (1) applies to—

- (a) behaviour of any kind including, in particular, things said or otherwise communicated as well as things done, and
- (b) behaviour consisting of—
  - (i) a single act, or
  - (ii) a course of conduct.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable—

- (a) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or a fine (or both), or
- (b) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both).

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**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, Section 2. (See end of Document for details)*

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 2 in operation at 27.4.2022, see [s. 22\(1\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Protection from Stalking Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, Section 2.