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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1987 No. 463 (N.I. 7)**

**The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987**

- - - - 18th March 1987

**THE PUBLIC ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1987**

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

1. Title and commencement
2. Interpretation

PART II

PROCESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Art. 3 rep. by 1998 c. 2

4. Imposing conditions on public processions and open-air public meetings
5. Prohibiting public processions and open-air public meetings
- Arts. 6, 6A rep. by 1998 c. 2
7. Endeavours to break up public processions or public meetings

PART III

STIRRING UP HATRED OR AROUSING FEAR

*Acts intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear*

8. Meaning of “fear” and “hatred” etc.
9. Use of words or behaviour or display of written material
10. Publishing or distributing written material
11. Distributing, showing or playing a recording
12. Broadcasting or including programme in cable programme service
13. Possession of matter intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear

*Supplementary provisions*

14. Powers of entry and search
15. Savings for reports of parliamentary, Assembly or judicial proceedings
16. Punishment of offences under Part III
17. Interpretation of Part III

**Changes to legislation:** The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 December 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

#### PART IV

##### MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES

18. Riotous or disorderly behaviour in public place
19. Provocative conduct in public place or at public meeting or procession
20. Obstructive sitting, etc., in public place
21. Wearing of uniform in public place or at public meeting
22. Carrying of offensive weapon in public place
23. Offences in relation to public buildings and activities therein

#### PART V

##### MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

###### *Temporary powers to deal with activities in a locality*

- 23A Powers to require removal of disguises
- 23B Powers to stop and search in anticipation of violence
- 23C Retention and disposal of things seized under Article 23A and 23B

###### *General provisions relating to offences*

24. Powers of arrest
25. Consent to prosecution
26. Forfeiture

###### *Repeal of Flags and Emblems (Display) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954*

27. Repeal of Flags and Emblems (Display) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954

###### *Supplementary*

28. Amendments, savings, transitional provisions and repeals

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#### SCHEDULES

— Schedule 1 — Amendments

— Schedule 2 — Repeals

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Instrument amended by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(1\)Sch.3 para.3](#)
- art.2(2) (defn. of band) rev. in pt. by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)
- arts.34(1) revoked by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)
- art.5(1)(b) rev. in pt. by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)
- art.7(3) rev. in pt. by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)
- art.28(4)Sch.1 para.4 revoked by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)

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

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

- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- art.2(3)(b) amended by [1996 c. 26 s. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#)
- arts.5(2)66A7(1) revoked by [1998 c. 2 s.18\(2\)Sch.4](#)