



Public Order Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 64

PART I

NEW OFFENCES

1 Riot.

- (1) Where 12 or more persons who are present together use or threaten unlawful violence for a common purpose and the conduct of them (taken together) is such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present at the scene to fear for his personal safety, each of the persons using unlawful violence for the common purpose is guilty of riot.
- (2) It is immaterial whether or not the 12 or more use or threaten unlawful violence simultaneously.
- (3) The common purpose may be inferred from conduct.
- (4) No person of reasonable firmness need actually be, or be likely to be, present at the scene.
- (5) Riot may be committed in private as well as in public places.
- (6) A person guilty of riot is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or a fine or both.

Changes to legislation:

Public Order Act 1986, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 April 2024. 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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

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

- s. 4B inserted by [2023 c. 47 s. 1](#)