



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).