

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

**1988 No. 1849 (N.I. 18)**

The Malicious Communications (Northern Ireland) Order 1988

26th October 1988

**Title and commencement** **N.I.**

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Malicious Communications (Northern Ireland) Order 1988.

(2) This Order shall come into operation on the expiration of two months from the day on which it is made.

**Interpretation** **N.I.**

2. The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954<sup>F1</sup> shall apply to Articles 1 and 3 as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

F1 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

**Offence of sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety** **N.I.**

3.—(1) Any person who sends to another person—

(a) a letter or other article which conveys—

(i) a message which is indecent or grossly offensive;

<sup>F2</sup>(ii) .....

<sup>F3</sup>(iii) .....

(b) any other article which is, in whole or part, of an indecent or grossly offensive nature, is guilty of an offence if his purpose, or one of his purposes, in sending it is that it should, so far as falling within sub#paragraph ( a ) or ( b ), cause distress or anxiety to the recipient or to any other person to whom he intends that it or its contents or nature should be communicated.

<sup>F4</sup>(2) .....

(3) In this Article references to sending include references to delivering and to causing to be sent or delivered.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

F2 Art. 3(1)(a)(ii) repealed (31.1.2024) by Online Safety Act 2023 (c. 50), ss. 189(3)(a), 240(1); S.I. 2024/31, reg. 2

---

**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Malicious Communications (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- F3** Art. 3(1)(a)(iii) repealed (31.1.2024) by Online Safety Act 2023 (c. 50), ss. **189(3)(b)**, 240(1); S.I. 2024/31, reg. 2
- F4** Art. 3(2) repealed (31.1.2024) by Online Safety Act 2023 (c. 50), ss. **189(3)(c)**, 240(1); S.I. 2024/31, reg. 2

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Malicious Communications (Northern Ireland) Order 1988.