



# Public Order Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 64

### [<sup>F1</sup>PART 3A

#### HATRED AGAINST PERSONS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS [<sup>F1</sup>OR GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION]

##### *Supplementary provisions*

#### [<sup>F1</sup>29L Procedure and punishment

- (1) No proceedings for an offence under this Part may be instituted <sup>F2</sup>... except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.
- (2) For the purposes of the rules <sup>F2</sup>... against charging more than one offence in the same count or information, each of sections 29B to 29G creates one offence.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this Part is liable—
  - (a) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years or a fine or both;
  - (b) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [<sup>F3</sup>12 months] or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both.

[ In subsection (3)(b) the reference to 12 months shall be read as a reference to 6 months <sup>F4</sup>(4) in relation to an offence committed before [<sup>F5</sup>2 May 2022].]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 3A inserted (E.W.) (1.10.2007) except so far as relating to the insertion of ss. 29B(3), 29H(2), 29I(2)(b)(4) by [Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. 1, 3(2), [Sch.](#); S.I. 2007/2490, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 29L(1)(2) repealed (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 149, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 16\(2\)](#), [Sch. 28 Pt. 5](#)
- F3** Words in s. 29L(3)(b) substituted (8.5.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 74, 153(1)(j), [Sch. 16 para. 16\(3\)](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** Public Order Act 1986, Section 29L is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 June 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. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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- F4** S. 29L(4) inserted (8.5.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), ss. 74, 153(1)(j), **Sch. 16 para. 16(4)**
- F5** Words in s. 29L(4) substituted (28.4.2022) by The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 33) and Sentencing Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/500), regs. 1(2), 5(1), **Sch. Pt. 1**

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**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](#)