



Public Order Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 64

PART I

NEW OFFENCES

3 Affray.

- (1) A person is guilty of affray if he uses or threatens unlawful violence towards another and his conduct is such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present at the scene to fear for his personal safety.
- (2) Where 2 or more persons use or threaten the unlawful violence, it is the conduct of them taken together that must be considered for the purposes of subsection (1).
- (3) For the purposes of this section a threat cannot be made by the use of words alone.
- (4) No person of reasonable firmness need actually be, or be likely to be, present at the scene.
- (5) Affray may be committed in private as well as in public places.
- (6) ^{F1}
- (7) A person guilty of affray is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or a fine or both, or on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 3(6) repealed (1.1.2006) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), ss. 111, 174(2), 178(8), Sch. 7 para. 26(2), [Sch 17 Pt. 2](#); S.I. 2005/3495, [art. 2\(m\)\(u\)\(xxvi\)](#)

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/10/2007.

Changes to legislation:

Public Order Act 1986, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 May 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.