Changes to legislation: Sexual Offences Act 2003, Cross Heading: Other offences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 July 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)



# Sexual Offences Act 2003

# **2003 CHAPTER 42**

#### PART 1

## **SEXUAL OFFENCES**

# Other offences

## 66 Exposure

- [F1(1) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) he intentionally exposes his genitals, and
  - (b) he intends that someone will see them and be caused alarm or distress.
  - (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
    - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
    - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

F1 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2

# 67 Voyeurism

- [F2(1) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, he observes another person doing a private act, and

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- (b) he knows that the other person does not consent to being observed for his sexual gratification.
- (2) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) he operates equipment with the intention of enabling another person to observe, for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, a third person (B) doing a private act, and
  - (b) he knows that B does not consent to his operating equipment with that intention.
- (3) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) he records another person (B) doing a private act,
  - (b) he does so with the intention that he or a third person will, for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, look at an image of B doing the act, and
  - (c) he knows that B does not consent to his recording the act with that intention.
- (4) A person commits an offence if he instals equipment, or constructs or adapts a structure or part of a structure, with the intention of enabling himself or another person to commit an offence under subsection (1).
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.]

## **Textual Amendments**

F2 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2

# [F367A Voyeurism: additional offences

- (1) A person (A) commits an offence if—
  - (a) A operates equipment beneath the clothing of another person (B),
  - (b) A does so with the intention of enabling A or another person (C), for a purpose mentioned in subsection (3), to observe—
    - (i) B's genitals or buttocks (whether exposed or covered with underwear), or
    - (ii) the underwear covering B's genitals or buttocks,

in circumstances where the genitals, buttocks or underwear would not otherwise be visible, and

- (c) A does so—
  - (i) without B's consent, and
  - (ii) without reasonably believing that B consents.
- (2) A person (A) commits an offence if—
  - (a) A records an image beneath the clothing of another person (B),
  - (b) the image is of—

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- (i) B's genitals or buttocks (whether exposed or covered with underwear), or
- (ii) the underwear covering B's genitals or buttocks,

in circumstances where the genitals, buttocks or underwear would not otherwise be visible,

- (c) A does so with the intention that A or another person (C) will look at the image for a purpose mentioned in subsection (3), and
- (d) A does so—
  - (i) without B's consent, and
  - (ii) without reasonably believing that B consents.
- (3) The purposes referred to in subsections (1) and (2) are—
  - (a) obtaining sexual gratification (whether for A or C);
  - (b) humiliating, alarming or distressing B.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to a fine, or to both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.
- (5) In relation to an offence committed before the coming into force of [F4paragraph 24(2) of Schedule 22 to the Sentencing Act 2020] (increase in maximum term that may be imposed on summary conviction of offence triable either way), the reference in subsection (4)(a) to 12 months is to be read as a reference to 6 months.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F3 S. 67A inserted (12.4.2019) by Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 (c. 2), ss. 1(2), 2(2)
- **F4** Words in s. 67A(5) substituted (1.12.2020) by Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), s. 416(1), **Sch. 24 para. 443(1)** (with Sch. 24 para. 447, Sch. 27); S.I. 2020/1236, reg. 2

## 68 Voveurism: interpretation

- [F5(1) For the purposes of section 67, a person is doing a private act if the person is in a place which, in the circumstances, would reasonably be expected to provide privacy, and—
  - (a) the person's genitals, buttocks or breasts are exposed or covered only with underwear,
  - (b) the person is using a lavatory, or
  - (c) the person is doing a sexual act that is not of a kind ordinarily done in public.
- [<sup>F6</sup>(1A) For the purposes of sections 67 and 67A, operating equipment includes enabling or securing its activation by another person without that person's knowledge.]
  - (2) In section 67, "structure" includes a tent, vehicle or vessel or other temporary or movable structure.]

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#### **Textual Amendments**

- F5 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2
- F6 S. 68(1A) inserted (12.4.2019) by Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 (c. 2), ss. 1(3), 2(2)

#### 69 Intercourse with an animal

[F7(1) A person commits an offence if—

- (a) he intentionally performs an act of penetration with his penis,
- (b) what is penetrated is the vagina or anus of a living animal, and
- (c) he knows that, or is reckless as to whether, that is what is penetrated.
- (2) A person (A) commits an offence if—
  - (a) A intentionally causes, or allows, A's vagina or anus to be penetrated,
  - (b) the penetration is by the penis of a living animal, and
  - (c) A knows that, or is reckless as to whether, that is what A is being penetrated by.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

F7 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2

# **Sexual penetration of a corpse**

[F8(1) A person commits an offence if—

- (a) he intentionally performs an act of penetration with a part of his body or anything else,
- (b) what is penetrated is a part of the body of a dead person,
- (c) he knows that, or is reckless as to whether, that is what is penetrated, and
- (d) the penetration is sexual.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.]

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#### **Textual Amendments**

F8 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2

# 71 Sexual activity in a public lavatory

[F9(1) A person commits an offence if—

- (a) he is in a lavatory to which the public or a section of the public has or is permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise,
- (b) he intentionally engages in an activity, and,
- (c) the activity is sexual.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, an activity is sexual if a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider it to be sexual.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or both.]

## **Textual Amendments**

F9 Ss. 66-72 repealed (N.I.) (2.2.2009) by The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/1769 (N.I. 2)), arts. 1, 78(e), Sch. 3; (with Sch. 2 para. 1) S.R. 2008/510, art. 2

## **Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/12/2020.

# **Changes to legislation:**

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