



Sexual Offences Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 42

PART 1

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Child sex offences

[^{F1}15A Sexual communication with a child

- (1) A person aged 18 or over (A) commits an offence if—
 - (a) for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, A intentionally communicates with another person (B),
 - (b) the communication is sexual or is intended to encourage B to make (whether to A or to another) a communication that is sexual, and
 - (c) B is under 16 and A does not reasonably believe that B is 16 or over.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a communication is sexual if—
 - (a) any part of it relates to sexual activity, or
 - (b) a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider any part of the communication to be sexual;and in paragraph (a) “sexual activity” means an activity that a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider to be sexual.
- (3) 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 a fine or both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.]

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2017. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Sexual Offences Act 2003, Section 15A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 15A inserted (E.W.) (3.4.2017) by [Serious Crime Act 2015 \(c. 9\)](#), [ss. 67, 88\(1\)](#) (with [s. 86\(14\)\(15\)](#)); [S.I. 2017/451](#), [reg. 2](#)

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