



Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

2008 CHAPTER 4

PART 5

CRIMINAL LAW

Blasphemy

79 Abolition of common law offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel

- (1) The offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel under the common law of England and Wales are abolished.
- (2) In section 1 of the Criminal Libel Act 1819 (60 Geo. 3 & 1 Geo. 4 c. 8) (orders for seizure of copies of blasphemous or seditious libel) the words “any blasphemous libel, or” are omitted.
- (3) In sections 3 and 4 of the Law of Libel Amendment Act 1888 (c. 64) (privileged matters) the words “blasphemous or” are omitted.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) (and the related repeals in Schedule 28) extend to England and Wales only.

Changes to legislation:

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, Section 79 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 31 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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):

- Sch. 7 para. 5A and cross-heading inserted by [2008 c. 25 Sch. 1 para. 90\(3\)](#)