



Public Order Act 2023

2023 CHAPTER 15

PART 1

PUBLIC ORDER

Interference with access to or provision of abortion services

PROSPECTIVE

9 Offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services

- (1) It is an offence for a person who is within a safe access zone to do an act with the intent of, or reckless as to whether it has the effect of—
- (a) influencing any person's decision to access, provide or facilitate the provision of abortion services at an abortion clinic,
 - (b) obstructing or impeding any person accessing, providing, or facilitating the provision of abortion services at an abortion clinic, or
 - (c) causing harassment, alarm or distress to any person in connection with a decision to access, provide, or facilitate the provision of abortion services at an abortion clinic,

where the person mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) is within the safe access zone for the abortion clinic.

- (2) A "safe access zone" means an area which is within a boundary which is 150 metres from any part of an abortion clinic or any access point to any building or site that contains an abortion clinic and is—
- (a) on or adjacent to a public highway or public right of way,
 - (b) in an open space to which the public has access,
 - (c) within the curtilage of an abortion clinic, or building or site which contains an abortion clinic, or

Status: This version of this provision is prospective.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Public Order Act 2023, Section 9. (See end of Document for details)

- (d) in any location that is visible from a public highway, public right of way, open space to which the public have access, or the curtilage of an abortion clinic.
- (3) No offence is committed under [subsection \(1\)](#) by—
- (a) a person inside a dwelling where the person affected is also in that or another dwelling, or
 - (b) a person inside a building or site used as a place of worship where the person affected is also in that building or site.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under [subsection \(1\)](#) is liable on summary conviction to a fine.
- (5) Nothing in this section applies to—
- (a) anything done in the course of providing, or facilitating the provision of, abortion services in an abortion clinic,
 - (b) anything done in the course of providing medical care within a regulated healthcare facility,
 - (c) any person or persons accompanying, with consent, a person or persons accessing, providing or facilitating the provision of, or attempting to access, provide or facilitate the provision of, abortion services, or
 - (d) the operation of a camera if its coverage of persons accessing or attempting to access an abortion clinic is incidental.
- (6) In this section—
- “abortion clinic” means—
- (a) a place approved for the purposes of section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967 by the Secretary of State under subsection (3) of that section, or
 - (b) a hospital identified in a notification to the Chief Medical Officer under section 2(1) of the Abortion Act 1967 in the current or previous calendar year, and published identifying it as such, where “current” or “previous” are references to the time at which an alleged offence under subsection (1) of this section takes place;
- “abortion services” means any treatment for the termination of pregnancy;
- “dwelling” has the same meaning as in [section 1](#) of this Act (offence of locking on).

Commencement Information

II S. 9 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 35\(5\)](#)

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