



# Public Order Act 2023

## 2023 CHAPTER 15

### PART 1

#### PUBLIC ORDER

##### *Offences relating to locking on*

### 1 Offence of locking on

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) they—
    - (i) attach themselves to another person, to an object or to land,
    - (ii) attach a person to another person, to an object or to land, or
    - (iii) attach an object to another object or to land,
  - (b) that act causes, or is capable of causing, serious disruption to—
    - (i) two or more individuals, or
    - (ii) an organisation,in a place other than a dwelling, and
  - (c) they intend that act to have a consequence mentioned in paragraph (b) or are reckless as to whether it will have such a consequence.
- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that they had a reasonable excuse for the act mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection.
- (3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding the maximum term for summary offences, to a fine or to both.
- (4) In subsection (3), “the maximum term for summary offences” means—
  - (a) if the offence is committed before the time when section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (alteration of penalties for certain summary offences: England and Wales) comes into force, six months;
  - (b) if the offence is committed after that time, 51 weeks.

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Public Order Act 2023, Cross Heading: Offences relating to locking on. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (5) In this section “dwelling” means—
- (a) a building or structure which is used as a dwelling, or
  - (b) a part of a building or structure, if the part is used as a dwelling,
- and includes any yard, garden, grounds, garage or outhouse belonging to and used with a dwelling.

**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 1 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 35\(5\)](#)  
**I2** [S. 1](#) in force at 3.5.2023 by [S.I. 2023/502](#), [reg. 2\(a\)](#)

**2 Offence of being equipped for locking on**

- (1) A person commits an offence if they have an object with them in a place other than a dwelling with the intention that it may be used in the course of or in connection with the commission by any person of an offence under section [1\(1\)](#) (offence of locking on).
- (2) A person who commits an offence under subsection [\(1\)](#) is liable on summary conviction to a fine.
- (3) In this section “dwelling” has the same meaning as in section [1](#).

**Commencement Information**

- I3** S. 2 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 35\(5\)](#)  
**I4** [S. 2](#) in force at 3.5.2023 by [S.I. 2023/502](#), [reg. 2\(b\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Public Order Act 2023, Cross Heading:  
Offences relating to locking on.