

Business Crime Classifications

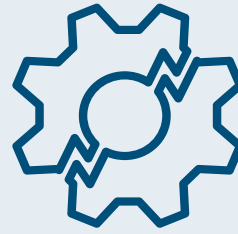


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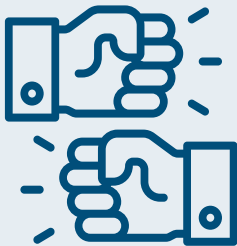
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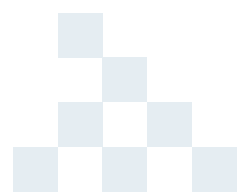


Public Order

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“Any criminal offence where a business, or person in the course of their employment, and because of that employment, is the victim.”

**National Police Chief Council (NPCC)
definition of business crime**



Theft

In its most simple term theft is the act of dishonestly taking an item of property that belongs to another person and keeping it. Theft can be committed in a number of ways, see below for the sub-classifications.



Shop Theft

A shop thief is a person who takes property from a shop, treats those items as their own with no intention to pay for them or return them.

Property does not need to be for sale. Entry into a shop as a trespasser with intent to steal should be counted as a shop theft.

If violence or threat of violence is used to commit the theft then it is robbery.

For example, if the victim or a third party offers any resistance that needs to be overcome, or if anyone is assaulted in any way, then this constitutes force, and therefore, robbery.

Example

A person walks into a local convenience store, picks up a bottle of wine from the shelf and walks out the shop, passing the tills without paying.



Theft From The Person

Theft from a person is the taking of a person's property that is physically with them, without the use of force (such as pickpocketing).

A theft without the use or threat of force should be recorded as a theft from the person if one of the following circumstances applies at the time of the theft:

- (i) The goods stolen were being worn by the victim; or
- (ii) The goods stolen were physically attached in some way to the victim, or carried by the victim; or
- (iii) The goods stolen were contained in an article of clothing being worn by the victim.

Example

A retail assistant in a phone shop is holding a demo phone to show the customer the product. The customer snatches the phone clean out of the store assistant's hand and runs out the store with the phone.



Blackmail

Blackmail is where a person tries to make a gain for himself or another person, or intends to cause a loss to another person, by making demands with threats.

The offence is not confined to successfully obtaining physical possession of property by menaces, a demand is sufficient.

The gain can be either to the person making the threats or to a 3rd party and likewise the loss can be by the 3rd party.

Example

While at the office a secretary of a company receives a phone call from somebody who says they want £10,000 transferred into their bank account otherwise they will smash up the CEO's car in the staff car park.



Theft By An Employee

Theft by an employee occurs when an employee or group of employees steal from their employer.

The owner of the property stolen should be the employee's employer.

Example

A store manager has been stealing cash from the office safe over a period of months.



Theft – Making Off Without Payment

Is where a person, who knows payment is required on the spot for goods or a service, dishonestly makes off without paying in order to avoid that payment.

Also known as bilking.

The fact that a making off occurred will usually be sufficient to require the recording of a crime unless there is credible evidence to show the act was an innocent mistake.

Example

A motorist fills up their car with fuel at a petrol forecourt and then drives straight off with no attempt to pay.





Theft Of A Motor Vehicle

This is where someone takes a motor vehicle without authority of the owner, with no intention of returning it.

A “motor vehicle” is a mechanically propelled vehicle made intended or adapted for use on roads.

Example

A courier driver parks his van on the road while he walks to deliver a parcel. The suspect breaks into the unoccupied van and drives off.



Theft From A Motor Vehicle

This is when an offender steals items from a motor vehicle, either by taking items from within the vehicle or off the vehicle such as catalytic converters and number plates.



All thefts of letters or packages from delivery vehicles are to be recorded as Theft of Mail and not as a Theft from a Motor Vehicle.

Example

A supermarket grocery van is out delivering food orders. When it is parked up outside an address a suspect steals a crate of food from the van.



Theft Of Mail

This is where letters or parcels are stolen while they are in the process of being delivered by way of a business.

This includes the time the mail leaves the originator to the time they reach the recipient address. This includes all carriers such as DHL, Hermes, DPD, UPS and Fed Ex.

All thefts of such letters or packages from the delivery vehicle are to be recorded under this classification and not as a theft from a vehicle.

Example

A courier driver is delivering parcels and along their route their van is broken into and packages are stolen.



Other Theft

This classification should be used for any thefts not classified elsewhere.

Example

At a large distribution centre there are pallets of building materials stored in the open yard. A suspect climbs over a perimeter fence and steals items from the pallet and leaves the site.

Damage

Where a person destroys or damages property belonging to another without lawful excuse.



Criminal Damage

This is when somebody intentionally or recklessly damages property that does not belong to them; OR damages their own property and puts somebody's life in danger.

Damage to an entry point of a building such as a door or window could be classified as attempted burglary if entry is suspected to be the intention.

Damage caused by fire is Arson.

Example

A drunk customer gets refused alcohol from a supermarket and as they leave they pick up a brick and throw it through the window of the store, smashing it.



Burglary

A burglary occurs when a person enters a building (or part of a building) without permission in order to steal, commit serious assault or cause damage; OR having already entered a building (or part of a building) without permission, a person steals or commits serious assault.



The classification of business and community burglary includes all buildings or parts of buildings that are used solely and exclusively for business purposes.

This offence includes stealing from private areas within premises such as behind shop kiosks and staff rooms as long as the suspect is a trespasser.

Example

A suspect breaks into a phone shop at 2am in the morning and steals brand new phones from the stock room.



Aggravated Burglary

A person is guilty of aggravated burglary if they commit any burglary and at the time, they have with them any firearm or imitation firearm, a weapon, or explosive.



If force or the threat of force is used in order to steal during the course of a burglary, then it should be classified as a robbery.

Example

A number of offenders break into a bank at night and use explosives to blow out an ATM in order to steal the cash within it.

Robbery

This is where a person steals property and in order to steal that property they use violence or threaten violence.



Where an offender enters a retail premises, steals and either uses or threatens violence against a shop worker or security guard or any other person at the time or uses or threatens violence in order to escape the premises with the property then the crime to be recorded should be robbery.

If a victim is under any impression from the offender's words or actions that the offender may use force, then this constitutes threat of force and therefore robbery, for example 'steaming'.

Example

A shoplifter places articles into their bag in an aisle and notices the store detective watching them, as the store detective approaches them the shoplifter strikes them and leaves the store without paying.



Assault

When a person intentionally or recklessly causes another person to apprehend immediate and unlawful personal violence.



Common Assault

This is where somebody has been assaulted but it results in no injury, and also includes violent behaviour where no physical contact has been made but the victim anticipates being assaulted.

This includes where the victim has been verbally or physically threatened (amounting to fear of violence) in a private place. Other examples of common assault including pushing, spitting and throwing items at the victim.

Example

A store assistant challenges a customer over their age to buy cigarettes. The customer gets angry and spits at the store assistant.



Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)

This is where somebody has been assaulted and it results in injury.

This offence results in injuries to the victim which are not considered "serious harm". This includes bruises, cuts, reddening to the skin, cut lip, broken nose (as a nose is cartilage and not bone), black eye and any lasting pain or soreness as a result of the assault.

ABH can include psychiatric injury/illness or psychological damage.

Example

A delivery driver is involved in a road rage incident where by another driver gets out of his car and punches the delivery driver in the face causing bruising.



Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)

This is where somebody has been assaulted and it results in serious harm, OR an assault has occurred that resulted in a minor injury but the intent of the suspect was to cause serious harm.

This can include where an offender uses a knife to stab the victim but only causes minor injuries, the intent is likely to have been to cause greater harm.

Example

An aggrieved ex-employee attends a head office and waits for their old manager to come out to their car at the end of the day. The ex-employee attacks the manager hitting them with a baseball bat several times causing a broken arm and broken ribs.

Public Order

A wide range of criminal acts that disturb or disrupt public order, peace, and the general well-being of society.



Harassment, Alarm And Distress

This is where a person is threatening or behaves in an abusive manner that is likely to cause another person harassment, alarm or distress.

Threatening includes verbal and physical threats, and also violent conduct, abusive means using degrading or berating language.

Insulting somebody does not amount to an offence. Often referred to by its legislation as 'section 5 Public Order Act'.

Example

A customer in a store gets angry that the item they wanted to buy is out of stock. They get very angry and start shouting and swearing loudly and aggressively as they leave the store.



Intentional Harassment, Alarm And Distress

This is where a person is threatening or behaves in an abusive manner with the intention to cause another person harassment, alarm or distress.

Often referred to as 'section 4a Public Order Act'.

This offence is very similar to section 5 Public Order Act, but requires an intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

Example

A frequent customer of a local convenience shop is fed up of being refused alcohol by the manager so one evening goes into the store and threatens the manager stating 'they know where they live and they will follow them home' with the intention the manager is scared to come back to work the next day.



Fear Or Provocation Of Violence

This is where a person is threatening or behaves in an abusive manner with the intention to cause another person to fear violence or to provoke violence.

Often referred to as 'threatening behaviour' and 'section 4 Public Order Act'.

Example

A security guard in a department store is suspicious of a customer so starts to follow them around the shop. The customer becomes aware and takes offence so 'squares up' to the security guard and lifts his clenched fists in the air shouting in his face 'You want some do ya. I'm gonna do ya!!' repeatedly.



Reducing crime through partnership and prevention