



# Draft guidelines

## Riot Public Order Act 1986 (section 1)

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Triable only on indictment  
Maximum: 10 years' custody

Offence range: 3 years' – 9 years' custody

This is a violent specified offence for the purposes of section 226A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

**STEP ONE****Determining the offence category**

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following:

<b>A</b>	<p>Factors in Category B present <b>AND</b> any of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender used or intended to use petrol bomb or incendiary device</li> <li>• Offender used or intended to use firearm or other highly dangerous weapon*</li> <li>• Offender was a ringleader or carried out a leading role</li> <li>• Offenders actions escalated level of violence and/or disorder</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender participated in incident which caused widespread and/or large scale acts of violence on people and/or property</li> <li>• Offender participated in incident involving significant planning of unlawful activity</li> <li>• Offender participated in incident involving persistent and/or sustained unlawful activity in a public place</li> </ul>

\* *The court must determine whether the weapon is highly dangerous on the facts and circumstances of the case. The dangerous nature must be substantially above and beyond the legislative definition of an offensive weapon, which is ‘any article made or adapted for use for causing injury, or is intended by the person having it with him for such use’.*

**Harm**

The level of **harm** is determined by weighing up all the factors of the case to determine the harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused.

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident results in serious physical injury or serious fear and/or distress</li> <li>• Incident causes serious disruption or severe detrimental impact to community</li> <li>• Incident causes loss of livelihood or substantial costs to businesses</li> <li>• Incident causes substantial costs to be incurred to public purse</li> <li>• Incident involves attacks on police or public servants</li> <li>• Incident results in extensive damage to property</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cases where a lower level of harm is present than in category 1</li> </ul>

**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range from the appropriate sentence table below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions.

Harm	Culpability	
	A	B
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> 7 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 6 years' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 6 – 9 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 4 – 7 years' custody
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> 6 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 5 years' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 4 – 7 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 3 – 6 years' custody

The **non-exhaustive** lists below include additional factual elements providing context to the offender's role in an offence and other factors relating to the offender.

First identify factors relating to the offender's role in the offence to identify whether any combination of these should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far.

**In cases where a number of aggravating factors are present, it may be appropriate to either move up a culpability category or move outside the identified category range.**

Relevant mitigating factors should then be considered to determine if further adjustment to the sentence is required.

**Factors increasing seriousness*****Statutory aggravating factors:***

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

***Other aggravating factors:***

Active and persistent participant

Incitement of others

Offender masked or disguised to evade detection

Incident occurred in busy public area

Took steps to prevent emergency services from carrying out their duties

Offender used weapon

Offender threw missiles/objects

Use of significant physical violence

Injury to animal carrying out public duty

Actively recruited other participants

Possession of weapon or article intended to injure

Vulnerable persons or children present during incident

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Ignored warnings or exclusion notices

Offence committed while on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

History of failing to comply with court orders

**Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation**

Low level involvement

No previous convictions

Remorse

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where linked to commission of offence

Previous good character

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives

## Other offences committed within incidents of riot

Where sentencing other offences committed in the context of riot, the court should treat the context of the offending as a severely aggravating feature of any offence charged.

### STEP THREE

#### Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

### STEP FOUR

#### Reduction for guilty pleas

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

### STEP FIVE

#### Dangerousness

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose an extended sentence (section 226A).

### STEP SIX

#### Totality principle

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

### STEP SEVEN

#### Compensation and ancillary orders

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

### STEP EIGHT

#### Reasons

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

### STEP NINE

#### Consideration for time spent on bail

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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# Violent disorder

## Public Order Act 1986 (section 2)

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Triable either way  
Maximum: 5 years' custody

Offence range: Community order – 4 years' custody

This is a violent specified offence for the purposes of section 226A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

**STEP ONE****Determining the offence category**

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following

<b>A</b>	<p>Factors in Category B present <b>AND</b> any of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender used or intended to use petrol bomb or incendiary device</li> <li>• Offender used or intended to use firearm or other highly dangerous weapon*</li> <li>• Offender was a ringleader or carried out a leading role</li> <li>• Targeting of individual(s) by a group</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender participated in incident which involved widespread and/or large scale acts of violence on people and/or property</li> <li>• Offender participated in incident involving serious acts of violence</li> <li>• Offender participated in incident involving significant planning of unlawful activity</li> <li>• Offender participated in incident involving persistent and/or sustained unlawful activity</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offence involved threats of violence only</li> <li>• Offence involved lower level of violence or activity than included in Category B</li> </ul>

\* *The court must determine whether the weapon is highly dangerous on the facts and circumstances of the case. The dangerous nature must be substantially above and beyond the legislative definition of an offensive weapon, which is ‘any article made or adapted for use for causing injury, or is intended by the person having it with him for such use’.*

**Harm**

The level of **harm** is determined by weighing up all the factors of the case to determine the harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused.

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident results in serious physical injury or serious fear and/or distress</li> <li>• Incident causes serious disruption or severe detrimental impact to community</li> <li>• Incident causes loss of livelihood or substantial costs to businesses</li> <li>• Incident causes substantial costs to be incurred to public purse</li> <li>• Incident results in attacks on police or public servants</li> <li>• Incident results in extensive damage to property</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cases where a lower level of harm is present than in category 1</li> </ul>



**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range from the appropriate sentence table below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> 3 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 2 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 1 year's custody
	<b>Category range</b> 2 – 4 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 1 – 3 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 2 years
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> 2 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 1 year's custody	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 1 – 3 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 2 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 1 year 6 months' custody

The **non-exhaustive** lists below include additional factual elements providing context to the offender's role in an offence and other factors relating to the offender.

First identify factors relating to the offender's role in the offence to identify whether any combination of these should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far.

**In cases where a number of aggravating factors are present, it may be appropriate to either move up a culpability category or move outside the identified category range.**

Other relevant aggravating and mitigating factors should then be considered to determine if further adjustment to the sentence is required.

**Factors increasing seriousness*****Statutory aggravating factors:***

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

***Other aggravating factors:***

Active and persistent participant

Offender's actions escalated level of violence and/or disorder

Incitement of others

Offender masked or disguised to evade detection

Incident occurred in busy public area

Offender used weapon

Offender threw missiles/objects

Use of significant physical violence

Injury to animal carrying out public duty

Possession of weapon or article intended to injure

Incident occurred in victim's home

Vulnerable persons or children present during incident

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

History of failing to comply with court orders

Offence committed while on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

**Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation**

No previous convictions

Evidence of steps initially taken to defuse incident

Low level involvement

Minor/peripheral role

Remorse

Previous good character

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where linked to commission of offence

**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Dangerousness**

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose an extended sentence (section 226A).

**STEP SIX****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SEVEN****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP EIGHT****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP NINE****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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## Public Order Act 1986 (section 3)

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Triable either way  
Maximum: 3 years' custody

Offence range: Band C fine – 2 years' 6 months' custody

This is a violent specified offence for the purposes of section 226A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

## STEP ONE

### Determining the offence category

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

#### Culpability demonstrated by one or more of the following:

<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting of individual(s) by a group</li> <li>• Use of a weapon to inflict violence</li> <li>• Use of serious or sustained violence</li> <li>• Intention to cause fear of very serious violence</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat of violence by any weapon (whether or not produced)</li> <li>• Threat or use of violence falling between levels in categories A and C</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat or use of minimal violence</li> <li>• The offender acted in self-defence or in fear of violence (where not amounting to a defence)</li> </ul>

#### Harm

The level of **harm** is determined by weighing up all the factors of the case to determine the harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused.

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious physical injury to others</li> <li>• Very serious fear/distress caused</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm falling between categories 1 and 3</li> </ul>
<b>Category 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little or no physical injury to others</li> <li>• Minimal fear/distress caused</li> </ul>

**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range from the appropriate sentence table below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> 2 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 1 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 1 year 6 months' – 2 years 6 months' custody	<b>Category range</b> 26 weeks' – 1 year 6 months' custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 1 year's custody
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> 1 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order
	<b>Category range</b> 26 weeks' – 1 year 6 months' custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 1 year's custody	<b>Category range</b> Low level community order – 36 weeks' custody
Category 3	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Medium level community order
	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 1 year's custody	<b>Category range</b> Low level community order – 36 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – High level community order

The **non-exhaustive** lists below include additional factual elements providing context to the offender's role in an offence and other factors relating to the offender.

First identify factors relating to the offender's role in the offence to identify whether any combination of these should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far.

Other relevant aggravating and mitigating factors should then be considered to determine if further adjustment to the sentence is required.

**Factors increasing seriousness*****Statutory aggravating factors:***

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: religion, race, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

***Other aggravating factors:***

Incident occurred in busy public area

Leading role where offending is part of group activity

Offender threw missiles/objects

Incident occurred in victim's home

Vulnerable persons or children present during incident

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

History of failing to comply with court orders

Prolonged incident

Planning

Significant impact on public resources

Threats or violence directed towards public servants in the course of their duty

Large number of persons affected

Offence committed while on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

**Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation**

No previous convictions

Previous good character

Remorse

Incident shortlived

Evidence of steps initially taken to defuse incident

Low level involvement

Minor/peripheral role where offending is part of group activity

No members of public present other than those participating in violence

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where linked to commission of offence

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives



**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Dangerousness**

The court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose an extended sentence (section 226A).

**STEP SIX****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SEVEN****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP EIGHT****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP NINE****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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# Threatening behaviour – fear or provocation of violence Public Order Act 1986 (section 4)

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Triable summarily

Maximum: 6 months' custody

Offence range: Discharge – 26 weeks' custody

# Racially or religiously aggravated threatening behaviour – fear or provocation of violence Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 31(1)(a))

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Triable either way

Maximum: 2 years' custody

Offence range: Fine – 1 year 6 months' custody

The racially or religiously aggravated offence is a violent specified offence for the purposes of section 226A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

**STEP ONE****Determining the offence category**

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**For racially and religiously aggravated offences, identify the basic offence category then move to consider the racially and religiously aggravated guidance to identify the appropriate sentence category.**

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following:

**A – High culpability**

- Targeting of individual(s) by a group
- Intention to cause fear of serious violence
- Sustained incident
- Use of substantial force
- Production of weapon
- Missiles thrown

**B – Lesser culpability**

- All other cases

**Harm**

The court should consider the factors set out below to determine the level of harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim.

**Category 1**

- Victim feared serious violence
- Fear of immediate violence caused to multiple persons present
- Incident escalated into violence

**Category 2**

- All other cases

**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions. A case of particular gravity, reflected by multiple features of culpability or harm in step one, could merit upward adjustment from the starting point before further adjustment for aggravating or mitigating features, set out on the next page.

Harm	Culpability	
	A	B
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> 12 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order
	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 26 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – 12 weeks' custody
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Low level community order
	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – 12 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Discharge – Medium level community order

**RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES ONLY**

**Maximum sentence for the aggravated offence on indictment is 2 years' custody (maximum when tried summarily is a level 5 fine and/or 6 months).**

Having determined the category of the basic offence to identify the sentence of a non-aggravated offence, the court should now consider the level of racial or religious aggravation involved and apply an appropriate uplift to the sentence in accordance with the guidance below. The following is a list of factors which the court should consider to determine the level of aggravation. Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of aggravation, the court should balance these to reach a fair assessment of the level of aggravation present in the offence.

**HIGH LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Racial or religious aggravation was the predominant motivation for the offence
- Offender was a member of, or was associated with, a group promoting hostility based on race or religion (where linked to the commission of the offence)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused severe distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused serious fear and distress throughout local community or more widely

**MEDIUM LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Racial or religious aggravation formed a significant proportion of the offence as a whole
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused some distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused some fear and distress throughout local community or more widely

**LOW LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Aggravated element formed a minimal part of the offence as a whole
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused minimal or no distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)

Once the court has considered these factors and any other such factors it considers relevant, the court should sentence according to the relevant category in the table below:

Basic Offence Category	Level of Racial/Religious Aggravation		
	High	Medium	Low
A1	<b>Starting point</b> 36 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 16 weeks' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 16 weeks' – 1 year 6 months' custody	<b>Category range</b> 6 weeks' – 1 year's custody	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 36 weeks' custody
A2 or B1	<b>Starting point</b> 12 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 6 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order
	<b>Category range</b> 6 weeks' – 1 year's custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 26 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Low level community order – 16 weeks' custody
B2	<b>Starting point</b> 6 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Medium level community order
	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 26 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Low level community order – 12 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – High level community order

The sentencer should state in open court that the offence was aggravated by reason of race or religion, and should also state what the sentence would have been without that element of aggravation.

Magistrates may find that, although the appropriate sentence for the basic offence would be within their powers, the appropriate increase for the aggravated offence would result in a sentence in excess of their powers. If so, they must commit for sentence to the Crown Court.

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

#### Factors increasing seriousness

##### *Statutory aggravating factors:*

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

##### *Other aggravating factors:*

Planning

Offence committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public

Leading role where offending is part of group activity

Vulnerable persons or children present

Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability) where not already taken into account in considering racial or religious aggravation

History of antagonising the victim

Victim had no opportunity to escape situation (ie: on public transport)

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Offence committed whilst on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

History of failure to comply with court orders

#### Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

Minor/peripheral role where offending is part of group activity

No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions

Remorse

Good character and/or exemplary conduct

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where linked to commission of offence

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives

**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Dangerousness**

For **racially or religiously aggravated offences only** the court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose an extended sentence (section 226A).

**STEP SIX****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SEVEN****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP EIGHT****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP NINE****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.



# Disorderly behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress Public Order Act 1986 (section 4A)

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Triable summarily

Maximum: 26 weeks' custody

Offence range: Discharge – 26 weeks' custody

# Racially or religiously aggravated disorderly behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 31(1)(b))

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Triable either way

Maximum: 2 years' custody

Offence range: Fine – 1 year 3 months' custody

The racially or religiously aggravated offence is a violent specified offence for the purposes of section 226A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

## STEP ONE

### Determining the offence category

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**For racially and religiously aggravated offences, identify the basic offence category then move to consider the racially and religiously aggravated guidance to identify the appropriate sentence category.**

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following:

<b>A – High culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting of individual(s) by a group</li> <li>• Sustained incident</li> <li>• Use of substantial force</li> <li>• Production of weapon</li> <li>• Missiles thrown</li> </ul>
<b>B – Lesser culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other cases</li> </ul>

### Harm

The court should consider the factors set out below to determine the level of harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim.

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious distress or alarm caused</li> <li>• Distress or alarm caused to multiple persons present</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other cases</li> </ul>

**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions.

Harm	Culpability	
	A	B
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Low level community order
	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 26 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – 12 weeks' custody
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> Low level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Band C fine
	<b>Category range</b> Band C Fine – 12 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Discharge – Low level community order

**RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES ONLY**

**Maximum sentence for the aggravated offence on indictment is 2 years' custody (maximum when tried summarily is a level 5 fine and/or 6 months).**

Having determined the category of the basic offence to identify the sentence of a non-aggravated offence, the court should now consider the level of racial or religious aggravation involved and apply an appropriate uplift to the sentence in accordance with the guidance below. The following is a list of factors which the court should consider to determine the level of aggravation. Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of aggravation, the court should balance these to reach a fair assessment of the level of aggravation present in the offence.

**HIGH LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Racial or religious aggravation was the predominant motivation for the offence
- Offender was a member of, or was associated with, a group promoting hostility based on race or religion (where linked to the commission of the offence)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused severe distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused serious fear and distress throughout local community or more widely

**MEDIUM LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Racial or religious aggravation formed a significant proportion of the offence as a whole
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused some distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused some fear and distress throughout local community or more widely

**LOW LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION**

- Aggravated element formed a minimal part of the offence as a whole
- Aggravated nature of the offence caused minimal or no distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)

Once the court has considered these factors and any other such factors it considers relevant, the court should sentence according to the relevant category in the table below;

Basic Offence Category	Level of Racial/Religious Aggravation		
	High	Medium	Low
A1	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 12 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 6 weeks' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 6 weeks' – 1 year 3 months' custody	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 36 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 26 weeks' custody
A2 or B1	<b>Starting point</b> 6 weeks' custody	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Medium level community order
	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 36 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 26 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – 16 weeks' custody
B2	<b>Starting point</b> High level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Medium level community order	<b>Starting point</b> Low level community order
	<b>Category range</b> Medium level community order – 12 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band C fine – 6 weeks' custody	<b>Category range</b> Band B fine – High level community order

The sentencer should state in open court that the offence was aggravated by reason of race or religion, and should also state what the sentence would have been without that element of aggravation.

Magistrates may find that, although the appropriate sentence for the basic offence would be within their powers, the appropriate increase for the aggravated offence would result in a sentence in excess of their powers. If so, they must commit for sentence to the Crown Court.

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

#### Factors increasing seriousness

##### *Statutory aggravating factors:*

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

##### *Other aggravating factors:*

Planning

Leading role where offending is part of group activity

Offence committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public

Vulnerable persons or children present

Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability)

History of antagonising the victim

Victim had no opportunity to escape situation (ie: on public transport)

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Offence committed whilst on licence or post sentence supervision

History of failure to comply with court orders

#### Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

Minor/peripheral role in group activity

No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions

Remorse

Previous good character

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where related to the commission of the offence

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives

**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Dangerousness**

For **racially or religiously aggravated offences only** the court should consider whether having regard to the criteria contained in Chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it would be appropriate to impose an extended sentence (section 226A).

**STEP SIX****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SEVEN****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP EIGHT****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP NINE****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

# Disorderly behaviour Public Order Act 1986 (section 5)

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Triable summarily  
Maximum: Level 3 fine

Offence range: Discharge – Fine

# Racially or religiously aggravated disorderly behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 31(1)(c))

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Triable summarily  
Maximum: Level 4 fine

Offence range: Discharge – Fine

**STEP ONE****Determining the offence category**

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**For racially and religiously aggravated offences, identify the basic offence category then move to consider the racially and religiously aggravated guidance to identify the appropriate sentence category.**

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following:

<b>A – High culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeting of individual(s) by group</li> <li>• Sustained incident</li> <li>• Use of force</li> </ul>
<b>B – Lesser culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other cases</li> </ul>

**Harm**

The court should consider the factors set out below to determine the level of harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim.

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious distress or alarm caused</li> <li>• Distress or alarm caused to multiple persons present</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other cases</li> </ul>



**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions. A case of particular gravity, reflected by multiple features of culpability or harm in step one, could merit upward adjustment from the starting point before further adjustment for aggravating or mitigating features, set out on the next page.

Harm	Culpability	
	A	B
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> Band C fine	<b>Starting point</b> Band B fine
	<b>Category range</b> Band B – Band C fine	<b>Category range</b> Band A – Band C fine
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> Band B fine	<b>Starting point</b> Band A fine
	<b>Category range</b> Band A – Band C fine	<b>Category range</b> Conditional discharge – Band B fine

**RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES ONLY****Summary only offence. Maximum sentence for the aggravated offence is level 4 fine.**

Having determined the category of the basic offence to identify the sentence of a non-aggravated offence, the court should now consider the level of racial or religious aggravation involved and apply an appropriate uplift to the sentence in accordance with the guidance below. The following table includes a list of factors which the court should consider to determine the level of aggravation. Where there are characteristics present which fall under different levels of aggravation, the court should balance these to reach a fair assessment of the level of aggravation present in the offence, and apply the appropriate uplift to the sentence.

<p><b>HIGH LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial or religious aggravation was the predominant motivation for the offence</li> <li>• Offender was a member of, or was associated with, a group promoting hostility based on race or religion (where linked to the commission of the offence)</li> <li>• Aggravated nature of the offence caused severe distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)</li> <li>• Aggravated nature of the offence caused serious fear and distress throughout local community or more widely</li> </ul>	<p><b>SENTENCE UPLIFT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine for basic offence: Multiply basic fine by 2.5</li> <li>• Discharge for basic offence: impose fine at top of basic offence category range or for particularly severe cases move to sentence in next basic offence category</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEDIUM LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial or religious aggravation formed a significant proportion of the offence as a whole</li> <li>• Aggravated nature of the offence caused some distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)</li> <li>• Aggravated nature of the offence caused some fear and distress throughout local community or more widely</li> </ul>	<p><b>SENTENCE UPLIFT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine for basic offence: Multiply basic fine by 2</li> <li>• Discharge for basic offence: impose fine at mid-top of basic offence category range</li> </ul>
<p><b>LOW LEVEL OF RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS AGGRAVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggravated element formed a minimal part of the offence as a whole</li> <li>• Aggravated nature of the offence caused minimal or no distress to the victim or the victim's family (over and above the distress already considered at step one)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SENTENCE UPLIFT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine for basic offence: Multiply basic fine by 1.5</li> <li>• Discharge for basic offence: impose fine at low-mid of basic offence category range</li> </ul>

The sentencer should state in open court that the offence was aggravated by reason of race or religion, and should also state what the sentence would have been without that element of aggravation.

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

#### Factors increasing seriousness

##### *Statutory aggravating factors:*

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence motivated by, or demonstrating hostility based on any of the following characteristics or presumed characteristics of the victim: disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity

Offence committed whilst on bail

##### *Other aggravating factors:*

Planning

Leading role where offending is part of group activity

Offence committed against those working in the public sector or providing a service to the public

Vulnerable persons or children present

Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability)

History of antagonising the victim

Commission of offence whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Victim(s) had no opportunity to escape situation (eg: offence occurred on public transport)

Offence committed whilst on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

History of failure to comply with court orders

#### Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions

Minor/peripheral role where offending is part of group activity

Remorse

Previous good character

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where related to the commission of the offence

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives

**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SIX****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP SEVEN****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP EIGHT****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

# Racial hatred offences Public Order Act 1986 (sections 18-23(3))

# Hatred against persons on religious grounds or grounds of sexual orientation Public Order Act 1986 (sections 29B-29G(3A)(3))

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Triable either way  
Maximum: 7 years' custody

Offence range: Fine – 6 years' custody

**STEP ONE****Determining the offence category**

The court should determine the offence category with reference **only** to the factors listed in the tables below. In order to determine the category the court should assess **culpability** and **harm**.

**Culpability** demonstrated by one or more of the following

<b>A – High culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender in position of trust, authority or influence and abuses their position to stir up hatred</li> <li>• Intention to incite serious violence</li> <li>• Persistent activity</li> </ul>
<b>B – Medium culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other cases falling between categories A and C</li> </ul>
<b>C – Lesser culpability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reckless as to whether hatred would be stirred up</li> </ul>

**Harm**

The court should consider the factors set out below to determine the level of harm that has been caused or was intended to be caused to the victim:

<b>Category 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement/publication/performance or broadcast directly encourages activity which threatens or endangers life</li> <li>• Widespread dissemination of statement/publication/performance or broadcast and/or strong likelihood that many would be influenced</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other cases</li> </ul>

**STEP TWO****Starting point and category range**

Having determined the category at step one, the court should use the corresponding starting point to reach a sentence within the category range below. The starting point applies to all offenders irrespective of plea or previous convictions.

Harm	Culpability		
	A	B	C
Category 1	<b>Starting point</b> 3 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 2 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 1 year's custody
	<b>Category range</b> 2 – 6 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 1 – 4 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 26 weeks' – 3 years' custody
Category 2	<b>Starting point</b> 2 years' custody	<b>Starting point</b> 1 year's custody	<b>Starting point</b> 26 weeks' custody
	<b>Category range</b> 1 – 4 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> 26 weeks' – 3 years' custody	<b>Category range</b> High level community order – 2 years' custody

The table below contains a **non-exhaustive** list of additional factual elements providing the context of the offence and factors relating to the offender. Identify whether any combination of these, or other relevant factors, should result in an upward or downward adjustment from the sentence arrived at so far. In some cases, having considered these factors, it may be appropriate to move outside the identified category range.

### Factors increasing seriousness

#### *Statutory aggravating factors:*

Previous convictions, having regard to a) the **nature** of the offence to which the conviction relates and its **relevance** to the current offence; and b) the **time** that has elapsed since the conviction

Offence committed whilst on bail

#### *Other aggravating factors:*

Planning of event or campaign designed to stir up hatred

Timing of incident – particularly sensitive social climate

Vulnerable/impressionable audience

Significant volume of publications published or disseminated (where not taken into account at step one)

Used multiple social media platforms to reach a wider audience (where not taken into account at step one)

Offence committed whilst on licence or subject to post sentence supervision

History of failure to comply with court orders

### Factors reducing seriousness or reflecting personal mitigation

Peripheral role in group activity

Previous good character

No previous convictions or no relevant/recent convictions

Remorse

Age and/or lack of maturity where it affects the responsibility of the offender

Mental disorder or learning disability where linked to the commission of the offence

Sole or primary carer for dependent relatives



**STEP THREE****Consider any factors which indicate a reduction for assistance to the prosecution**

The court should take into account sections 73 and 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (assistance by defendants: reduction or review of sentence) and any other rule of law by virtue of which an offender may receive a discounted sentence in consequence of assistance given (or offered) to the prosecutor or investigator.

**STEP FOUR****Reduction for guilty pleas**

The court should take account of any potential reduction for a guilty plea in accordance with section 144 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the *Guilty Plea* guideline.

**STEP FIVE****Totality principle**

If sentencing an offender for more than one offence, or where the offender is already serving a sentence, consider whether the total sentence is just and proportionate to the overall offending behaviour in accordance with the *Offences Taken into Consideration and Totality* guideline.

**STEP SIX****Compensation and ancillary orders**

In all cases the court should consider whether to make compensation and/or other ancillary orders.

**STEP SEVEN****Reasons**

Section 174 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty to give reasons for, and explain the effect of, the sentence.

**STEP EIGHT****Consideration for time spent on bail**

The court must consider whether to give credit for time spent on bail in accordance with section 240A of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

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