

CPS introduces new chapter to their prosecution guidance dealing with public sexual abuse

Published on 20 October 2022

Street harassment included in prosecution guidance

Brief 2 mins read

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated their prosecution guidance on public order offences to highlight that street harassment can and will be prosecuted.

The guidance now includes a specific chapter on charges relating to public sexual abuse.

The specific offences include exposure, up-skirting, cyberflashing and section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986.

It is sickening that seven in 10 women – almost three quarters – have been subjected to this disgusting behaviour.

It is equally concerning that so few incidents of sexual harassment in public are reported. The law is clear that if someone exposes themselves, tries to take inappropriate pictures or makes you feel threatened on the street, these are crimes and should not be dismissed.

Siobhan Blake, CPS national lead for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

Read more: [CPS sets out the law on street-based sexual harassment](#)

Download our latest edition of Brief

This article was published in the September/October edition of Brief, which brings you updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the College of Policing's legal services department.

- Share your ideas and feedback with the Brief team: brief@college.police.uk

- [College of Policing Brief: September/October 2022 \(pdf\) 634.45 KB](#)

Brief archive

Download our previous editions covering the latest updates in the policing and criminal justice field.

- [College of Policing Brief: August 2022 \(pdf\) 578.49 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: July 2022 \(pdf\) 626.86 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: June 2022 \(pdf\) 735.28 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: May 2022 \(pdf\) 542.38 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: April 2022 \(pdf\) 692.71 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: March 2022 \(pdf\) 502.62 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: February 2022 \(pdf\) 560.68 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: January 2022 \(pdf\) 896.27 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: December 2021 \(pdf\) 789.36 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: November 2021 \(pdf\) 711.13 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: October 2021 \(pdf\) 584.84 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: September 2021 \(pdf\) 554.5 KB](#)

Tags

Violence against women and girls Criminal justice