

COCO'S LAW



SCENARIOS (B)

4TH YEAR+

EXPLAINED

In your pairs or groups, read the following scenarios and decide if you think an offence has been committed.

1. Roisin (17) and Amy (16) have been going out for 8 months and while Amy is away on a family holiday Roisin decides to send her a picture of her in her underwear.

2. Clodagh keeps getting aggressive and sexually explicit messages from an unknown number. She has blocked it but then she gets emails from dummy accounts. The messages make her feel worried and she doesn't know who is sending them.

3. Niamh and James are both in TY and met doing the musical. They have been going out for months and they share sexually explicit images with each other on an App that makes the images disappear after 5 seconds. They have never shown anyone else the images.

4. Zahra and Kate don't like Clare in their form class. They set up a fake social media account and post doctored photos of her. Some have her face on a naked body and others depict her engaged in inappropriate acts with a teacher.

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In your pairs or groups, read the following scenarios and decide if you think an offence has been committed.

5. Thomas' boyfriend Jack, kisses someone else while they are going out. Thomas is upset and shares nude pictures of Jack in an online forum as he wants to hurt Jack's feelings too.

6. Laura (14) and Zola (14) are hanging out and the conversation turns to who they fancy at school, and Laura admits to having a crush on a boy in their year named Kieran. Laura has never spoken to Kieran (14) as they are not in any classes together, so Zola offers to message Kieran for Laura asking if he'd be interested in dating her. Laura agrees and when Kieran replies asking Zola for a picture of what Laura looks like, Laura asks her to send him a picture of her sunbathing in a bikini from a recent holiday in Greece.

7. Paul (14) posts a picture of him and his best friend Jai (14) after they won the county championship, both boys are topless in the dressing room waving the trophy over their heads after the match in the photo.



- 1.** This is not an offence as the image is shared consensually.
- 2.** This is an offence. A person who by any means (i) distributes or publishes any threatening or grossly offensive communication about another person, or (ii) sends any threatening or grossly offensive communication to another person with the intent to cause harm will have committed an offence.
- 3.** This is an offence as both students are minors and they are taking and distributing child pornography. The images are sexually explicit.
- 4.** This is an offence. A person intends to cause harm where he or she, by his or her acts, intentionally seriously interferes with the other person's peace and privacy or causes alarm or distress to the other person. This offence will cover situations where the perpetrator distributes or publishes a threat or grossly offensive communications to the victim or about the victim and is likely to be used to address cyberbullying. It can cover once-off threatening or grossly offensive communications.

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ANSWERS

- 5.** This is an offence under Section 2 of the Harassment, Harmful Communications & Related Offences Act 2020. It is the most serious of the new offences introduced under the Act and carries the most serious penalties if convicted. This offence is focused on the distribution and publication, or threat to distribute or publish intimate images with an intent to cause harm or being reckless as to whether harm is caused.
- 6.** This is not an offence as the image is not explicit and is shared consensually.
- 7.** This is not an offence as the image is not explicit and is shared consensually.