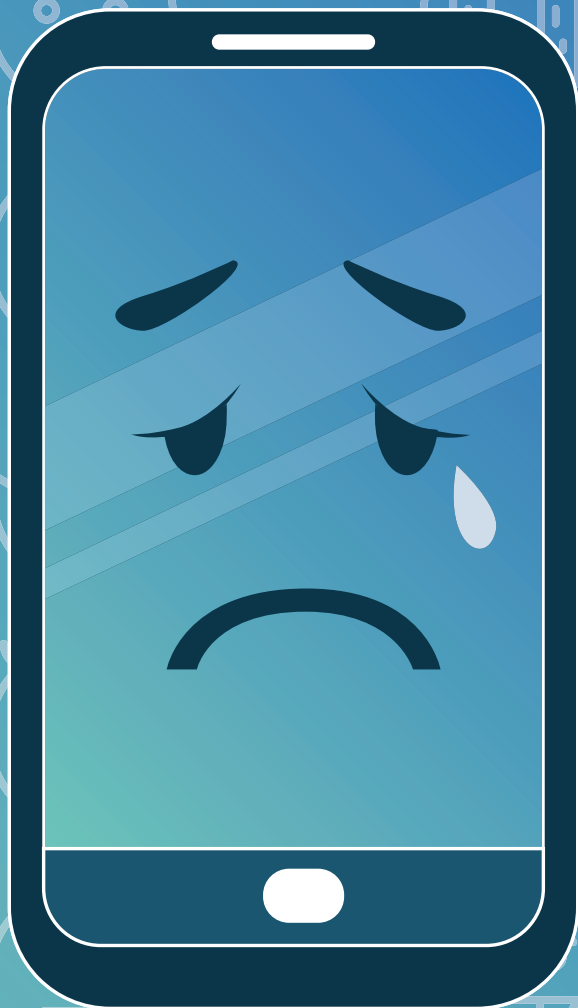


Digital Offending Leaflet



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

What is Digital Offending?

Digital Offending is covered under the legislation (laws) from Section 2, which creates an offence to use a public electronic communication network such as telephone, mobile phone or internet to send – anything Abusive, Threatening, Offensive or Upsetting. Examples of this include:-

- Bullying a person in a Whatsapp group chat
- Sending a threatening message on Instagram
- Sending a Snapchat mocking a person accent
- Making a TikTok video making fun of a person's appearance

The Law

Section 127 of the Communication Act 2003 is the legislation used by Police to investigate allegation of digital offending.

Potential Outcomes

If you are accused of committing an offence as listed above, you may be subject to a Police investigation which could possible include being arrested and taken to a Police station, being interviewed, having your device taken from you as this may contain evidence and if there is sufficient evidence you will be charged with the offence and reported to court. This could lead to a criminal conviction and affect your future due to having a conviction on your criminal record. If you are found guilty in the most extreme circumstances then you could be facing up to £5000 fine and/or a jail sentence.

Are you a victim?

If you are the victim of digital offending the first thing you need to do is report this to a responsible adult this could be a parent/ carer/teacher or any other adult you trust. You should if possible block the account that is responsible but retain any screenshots/ messages as this may assist the police during their potential investigation. Do not continue to interact with a digital offender.

Who to contact

If you are a victim or you know someone who is, there are a variety of ways you can get help/advice:

- Approach and inform a local Police Officer
- Attend your nearest Police Office
- Reporting online via the 'contact us' form on the Police Scotland website (see below for QR code)
- Call 101 or in an emergency and where an individual is at immediate risk call 999
- On some social media platforms you can also report digital offending to the app itself. This may prevent others from being effected.

Further Information

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.internetmatters.org

www.getsafeonline.org

