

Request Reference: 7876/19

***Please disclose, for the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018:***

***1. Regarding offences under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003:***

***a. The number of people arrested.***

See Table 1 Below

***b. The number of people charged as a result.***

See Table 2 Below

***d. The number of people charged as a result of offences where the internet is used in commission of the offence.***

See Table 3 Below

***2. Regarding offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988:***

***a. The number of people arrested.***

See Table 1 Below

***b. The number of people charged as a result.***

See Table 2 Below

***d. The number of people charged as a result of offences where the internet is used in commission of the offence.***

See Table 3 Below

TABLE 1

Count of arrests for offences under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988:

Act	CJ Code	HO Code	Offence	Year				Grand Total
				2015	2016	2017	2018	
Communications Act 2003	CA03	196/07	Cause to be sent by public communication network a false message to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	1	1	1	0	3
			Cause to be sent by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	13	15	12	9	49
			Persistently make use of public communication network to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	20	17	6	5	48
			Send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	79	121	106	84	390
			Send false message by public electronic communication network to cause annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety.	7	9	1	6	23
Malicious Communications Act 1988	MT88	195/41	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	9	7	8	7	31
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	63	62	96	78	299
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	4	2	0	3	9
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	10	15	20	27	72
		8/72	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	10	34	34	25	103
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	99	441	412	414	1366
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	1	7	11	6	25
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	17	67	63	65	212
Grand Total				333	798	770	729	2,630

TABLE 2

Count of arrests resulting in a CHARGE, for offences under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Malicious Communications Act 1998:

Act	CJ Code	HO Code	Offence	Year				Grand Total
				2015	2016	2017	2018	
Communications Act 2003	CA03	196/07	Cause to be sent by public communication network a false message to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	1	0	0	0	1
			Cause to be sent by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	10	9	7	7	33
			Persistently make use of public communication network to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	17	12	5	5	39
			Send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	58	74	78	48	258
			Send false message by public electronic communication network to cause annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety.	4	6	0	2	12
Malicious Communications Act 1998	MT88	195/41	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	2	0	1	0	3
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	24	13	21	12	70
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	1	0	0	1	2
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	3	3	4	3	13
		8/72	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	3	2	9	4	18
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	28	107	88	99	322
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	1	5	4	2	12
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	6	16	10	7	39
Grand Total				158	247	227	190	822

TABLE 3

Count of arrests resulting in a CHARGE, for offences under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988, where the internet was used in the commission of the offence\*:

Act	CJ Code	HO Code	Offence	Year				Grand Total
				2015	2016	2017	2018	
Communications Act 2003	CA03	196/07	Cause to be sent by public communication network a false message to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	0	0	0	0	0
			Cause to be sent by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	1	1	1	0	3
			Persistently make use of public communication network to cause annoyance / inconvenience / anxiety.	1	0	0	0	1
			Send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter.	6	8	10	5	29
			Send false message by public electronic communication network to cause annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety.	1	0	0	0	1
Malicious Communications Act 1998	MT88	195/41	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	1	0	0	0	1
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	2	0	1	4	7
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	0	0	0	0	0
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	0	0	1	1	2
		8/72	Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature.	1	0	1	2	4
			Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message	3	13	9	15	40
			Send letter / communication / article conveying false information.	0	2	2	0	4
			Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message	1	0	1	2	4
Grand Total				17	24	26	29	96

\* 'where the internet was used in the commission of the offence' – These results were based on a manual review of the 'circumstances' field of all 822 arrests from table 2 above and includes email, messaging apps etc.