



## Law

Throughout the UK, Law students answer 'problem questions' (PQs) in their exams: these are brief descriptions of a set of facts which raise interesting and difficult legal problems. Your task is to provide an accurate and concise summary of the law, applied to the specific problem below.

### **Introduction**

Greetings, and welcome to the year 2024. You are a young officer working for the Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS) and have a very special job: you build the prosecution's case against criminals. Last month, in response to our government's new laws on race passports, there were a series of riots across the nation. Although the armed forces quickly controlled the chaos, severe damage was done to a number of statues. The Director of Public Prosecutions has asked you personally to make sure these violent undesirables (the rioters) get charged with as many crimes as possible.

To please your boss, you will need to work out what crimes fit the facts below, then apply them accurately, concisely, and comprehensively. If you can do so successfully, you will receive a promotion and possibly a transfer to the London office. From there it's clear sailing: partner, pension, and a couple of bouncing, beautiful babies. Of course, there is always a choice - it's up to you how you build this case.

### **The Case**

At 19:20, Dafni, Kosi, and Ira, all members of a protest group called 'StatuesBGone', tore down a prominent public statue of Sir Awful McAwfulface and cut it into tiny pieces using arc cutters. They claimed they believed the owner of the statue would have consented to this act of destruction had they known the shocking, entirely unexpected, truth about Sir McAwfulface and his plantations. Dafni and Kosi claimed the local MP, Wackie Jeever, would have welcomed such an act to improve her election chances. Wackie's election campaign had recently given out leaflets stating: 'I don't see race, but when I do, I am definitely not racist and encourage everyone to take a stand against racism to stop racists, with whom I do not agree.' Ira believed the local government owned the statue and knew they were opposed to her plans, but argues she had to tear Sir McAwfulface's statue down because it was a powerful and public representation of Britain's systemic racism. Following the dismemberment of Sir McAwfulface a local landowner, Fabian, took the head home to show off to his houseguests on the hit TV show 'Come Dine on Me.'

As this was occurring, another local group belonging to the environmentalist, anarcho-communist group 'You Do Win Friends with Salad' were targeting a statute of Maximillian Moneybags. They feared that if steps weren't taken against Moneybags, globalisation would continue unopposed, destroying natural sites and perpetuating the modern oppression of wage-labour. David, the leader and famed artist, spray painted the words 'Money Can't Buy You Love' around Moneybags's podium using environmentally friendly, water soluble paint. As a result, it has become a tourist attraction and the statue's value has increased by 300%. The other member, Asrutha, did not touch the statue but covered it with a heavy weighted blanket. They then took rubbish out of the local residents' bins to recycle and planted a tree in Fabian's front garden.

The final group, 'The Frogmen', were a group of Neo-Nazis who mistakenly believed Wensleydale Churchmill was black because his statue was made of bronze. The group had been whipped into a frenzy by posts on activist Blanco blog's 'MassRemoval', suggesting 'someone really ought to clean up those dirty statues in Jekyll Park.' Das Weiß, the leader, did not take part in the attack, but supplied explosives for the rest and scouted the area with two sticks of plastic explosives and a chisel in his backpack. Shiro used thermite to melt the statue's legs, causing it to fall over and crush a nearby bin. Snow got so excited about this that he jumped up and down madly (to the catchy tune of 'Macho Man' by the Village People) crushing the daffodils in Asrutha's garden. The Frogmen's manifesto states that decisive action is required to prevent coming race riots from producing anarchy and chaos.

## Help!

Answers to this question should be from 800-1000 words long, though the upper word limit is 1300. Useful resources to answer this problem can be found online at the following:

### Statutes

- **Accessories and Abettors Act 1861** URL: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/24-25/94/contents>
- **Theft Act 1968** URL: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/60/contents>
- **Criminal Damage Act 1971** URL: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1971/48/contents>
- **Serious Crime Act 2007** URL: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/27/contents>

### Online Guides

The CPS website gives reliable guides to criminal law and charging for a variety of offences.

- **CPS Website:** for example, <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/criminal-damage>

Wikipedia is also good for finding more detailed secondary sources.

- **Wikipedia for English Law:** for example, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal\\_damage\\_in\\_English\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminal_damage_in_English_law)

The Crown Court Compendium is useful when it comes to accessory liability, see section 7.

- **Part 1:** <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/crown-court-compendium-pt1-legal-summaries-directions-examples-20160511.pdf>

### Further Reading

If you would like some more advanced material, [sign up here](#) and we will email you some extracts from a useful textbook.