

Prosecution guidance on football-related offences and banning orders

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The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) updates its guidance

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The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated its prosecution guidance for football-related offences, regarding tragedy-related abuse as a prosecutable public order offence. Offensive messages related to football disasters or accidents – such as the Hillsborough disaster or Munich air disaster – can lead to prosecution under the Public Order Act 1986.

The guidance also highlights football banning orders, which restrict attendance, travel and pub use during matches.

Recent prosecutions for tragedy-related abuse are outlined, emphasising the impact on victims and the broader community.

These include:

- a man banned for wearing an offensive shirt about the Hillsborough disaster
- a suspended prison sentence for a man who sent offensive Hillsborough and anti-Semitic tweets
- a fan sentenced for mocking the Hillsborough tragedy at a Liverpool FC match

Read more about [football related offences and football banning orders](#) and [football tragedy abuse](#) (CPS, 2023).

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