

PROJET DE LOI

ENTITLED

The Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1983 *

[CONSOLIDATED TEXT]

NOTE

This consolidated version of the enactment incorporates all amendments listed in the footnote below. It has been prepared for the Guernsey Law website and is believed to be accurate and up to date, but it is not authoritative and has no legal effect. No warranty is given that the text is free of errors and omissions, and no liability is accepted for any loss arising from its use. The authoritative text of the enactment and of the amending instruments may be obtained from Her Majesty's Greffier, Royal Court House, Guernsey, GY1 2PB.

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* Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXVIII, p. 5; as amended by the: Uniform Scale of Fines (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1989 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXI, p. 278); Administration of Justice (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1991 (No. I of 1991, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXIII, p. 49); Magistrate's Court and Miscellaneous Reforms (Guernsey) Law, 1996 (No. IX of 1996, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXVI, p. 639); Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 1999 (No. XII of 1999); Telecommunications (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001 (No. XIV of 2001, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XLI, p. 452); Post Office (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001 (No. XV of 2001, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XLI, p. 515); Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009 (No. XVI of 2009); Transfer of Funds (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2017 (No. XXVII of 2017); Sexual Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (No. VII of 2021). See also the: Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1986 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXIX, p. 207); Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Guernsey) Law, 1989 (Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXXI, p. 512); Government of Alderney Law, 2004 (No. III of 2005, Ordres en Conseil Vol. XLV, p. 26); Criminal Justice (Sex Offenders and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2013 (No. IX of 2014); Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and Financial Intelligence Unit (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022 (No. XII of 2022).

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THE STATES, in pursuance of their Resolution of the twenty-eighth day of April, nineteen hundred and eighty-two, have approved the following provisions which, subject to the Sanction of Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council, shall have force of law in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Definition of "theft"

Basic definition of theft.

1. (1) A person is guilty of theft if he dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it; and "**thief**" and "**steal**" shall be construed accordingly.

(2) It is immaterial whether the appropriation is made with a view to gain, or is made for the thief's own benefit.

(3) The five following sections of this Law shall have effect as regards the interpretation and operation of this section (and, except as otherwise provided by this Law, shall apply only for purposes of this section).

NOTE

The following cases have referred to this Law:

Law Officers of the Crown v. Whittaker (1987-88) 6.GLJ.67 (see also Court of Appeal Judgments, 1964-89, p. 375);

Law Officers of the Crown v. Diment (1993) 16.GLJ.86;

Law Officers of the Crown v. Sims (1999) 27.GLJ.137;
McCarthy v. Law Officers of the Crown 2007–08 GLR 414.

"Dishonestly"

2. (1) A person's appropriation of property belonging to another is not to be regarded as dishonest –

- (a) if he appropriates the property in the belief that he has in law the right to deprive the other of it, on behalf of himself or of a third person, or
- (b) if he appropriates the property in the belief that he would have the other's consent if the other knew of the appropriation and the circumstances of it, or
- (c) (except where the property came to him as trustee or personal representative) if he appropriates the property in the belief that the person to whom the property belongs cannot be discovered by taking reasonable steps.

(2) A person's appropriation of property belonging to another may be dishonest notwithstanding that he is willing to pay for the property.

"Appropriates"

3. (1) Any assumption by a person of the rights of an owner amounts to an appropriation, and this includes, where he has come by the property (innocently or not) without stealing it, any later assumption of a right to it by keeping or dealing with it as owner.

(2) Where property or a right or interest in property is or purports

to be transferred for value to a person acting in good faith, no later assumption by him of rights which he believed himself to be acquiring shall, by reason of any defect in the transferor's title, amount to theft of the property.

"Property".

4. (1) **"Property"** includes money and all other property, real or personal, including things in action and other intangible property.

(2) A person cannot steal land, or things forming part of land and severed from it by him or by his directions, except in the following cases, that is to say –

- (a) when he is a trustee or personal representative, or is authorised by power of attorney, or as liquidator of a company, or otherwise, to sell or dispose of land belonging to another, and he appropriates the land or anything forming part of it by dealing with it in breach of the confidence reposed in him, or
- (b) when he is not in possession of the land and appropriates anything forming part of the land by severing it or causing it to be severed, or after it has been severed, or
- (c) when, being in possession of the land under a tenancy, he appropriates the whole or part of any fixture or structure let to be used with the land.

For purposes of this subsection **"land"** does not include incorporeal hereditaments; **"tenancy"** means a tenancy for years or any less period and includes an agreement for such a tenancy, but a person who after the end of a tenancy remains

in possession is to be treated as having possession under the tenancy, and "let" shall be construed accordingly.

(3) A person who picks mushrooms growing wild on any land, or who picks flowers, fruit or foliage from a plant growing wild on any land, does not (although not in possession of the land) steal what he picks, unless he does it for reward or for sale or other commercial purpose.

For purposes of this subsection "**mushroom**" includes any fungus, and "**plant**" includes any shrub or tree.

(4) Wild creatures, tamed or untamed, shall be regarded as property; but a person cannot steal a wild creature not tamed nor ordinarily kept in captivity, or the carcase of any such creature, unless either it has been reduced into possession by or on behalf of another person and possession of it has not since been lost or abandoned, or another person is in course of reducing it into possession.

"Belonging to another".

5. (1) Property shall be regarded as belonging to any person having possession or control of it, or having in it any proprietary right or interest.

(2) Where property is subject to a trust, the persons to whom it belongs shall be regarded as including any person having a right to enforce the trust, and an intention to defeat the trust shall be regarded accordingly as an intention to deprive of the property any person having that right.

(3) Where a person receives property from or on account of another, and is under an obligation to the other to retain and deal with that property or its proceeds in a particular way, the property or proceeds shall be regarded (as against him) as belonging to the other.

(4) Where a person gets property by another's mistake, and is under an obligation to make restoration (in whole or in part) of the property or its proceeds or of the value thereof, then to the extent of that obligation the property or proceeds shall be regarded (as against him) as belonging to the person entitled to restoration, and an intention not to make restoration shall be regarded accordingly as an intention to deprive that person of the property or proceeds.

(5) Property of a corporation sole shall be regarded as belonging to the corporation notwithstanding a vacancy in the corporation.

"With the intention of permanently depriving the other of it".

6. (1) A person appropriating property belonging to another without meaning the other permanently to lose the thing itself is nevertheless to be regarded as having the intention of permanently depriving the other of it if his intention is to treat the thing as his own to dispose of regardless of the other's rights; and a borrowing or lending of it may amount to so treating it if, but only if, the borrowing or lending is for a period and in circumstances making it equivalent to an outright taking or disposal.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section, where a person, having possession or control (lawfully or not) of property belonging to another, parts with the property under a condition as to its return which he may not be able to perform, this (if done for purposes of his own and without the other's authority) amounts to treating the property as his own to dispose of regardless of the other's rights.

Theft, robbery, burglary, etc.

Theft.

7. A person guilty of theft shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

Robbery.

8. (1) A person is guilty of robbery if he steals, and immediately before or at the time of doing so, and in order to do so, he uses force on any person or puts or seeks to put any person in fear of being then and there subjected to force.

(2) A person guilty of robbery, or of an assault with intent to rob, shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for life.

Burglary.

9. (1) A person is guilty of burglary if –

(a) he enters any building or part of a building as a trespasser and with intent to commit any such offence as is mentioned in subsection (2) of this section, or

(b) having entered any building or part of a building as a trespasser he steals or attempts to steal anything in the building or that part of it or inflicts or attempts to inflict on any person therein any grievous bodily harm.

(2) The offences referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section are offences of stealing anything in the building or part of a building in question, [or inflicting on any person therein grievous bodily harm], and of doing unlawful damage to the building or anything therein.

(3) References in subsections (1) and (2) of this section to a building shall apply also to an inhabited vehicle or vessel, and shall apply to any such vehicle or vessel at times when the person having a habitation in it is not there as well as at times when he is.

(4) A person guilty of burglary shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

NOTES

In section 9, the words in square brackets in subsection (2) were substituted by the Sexual Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020, section 111, Schedule 2, paragraph 1 ("Amendments"), with effect from 1st March, 2022.

The following case has referred to section 9:

Law Officers of the Crown v. Sims (1999) 27.GLJ.137.

In accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Justice (Sex Offenders and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2013, section 1(1)(h), with effect from 29th April, 2015, an offence under subsection (1)(a) of this section (burglary with intent to rape a woman) is a "relevant offence" for the purposes of that Law.

Aggravated burglary.

10. (1) A person is guilty of aggravated burglary if he commits any burglary and at the time has with him any firearm or imitation firearm, any weapon of offence, or any explosive; and for this purpose –

- (a) **"firearm"** means a lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged, and includes –
 - (i) any weapon of whatever description designed or adapted for the discharge of any noxious liquid, gas or other thing, and
 - (ii) an air rifle, air gun or air pistol, and
- (b) **"imitation firearm"** means anything which has the

appearance of being a firearm, whether capable of being discharged or not, and

(c) **"weapon of offence"** means any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to or incapacitating a person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use, and

(d) **"explosive"** means any article or substance manufactured for the purpose of producing a practical effect by explosion, or intended by the person having it with him for that purpose.

(2) A person guilty of aggravated burglary shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for life.

NOTE

In accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Justice (Sex Offenders and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2013, section 1(1)(h), with effect from 29th April, 2015, an offence under this section (aggravated burglary where the burglary is with intent to rape a woman) is a "relevant offence" for the purposes of that Law.

Removal of articles from places open to the public.

11. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, where the public have access to a building in order to view the building or part of it, or a collection or part of a collection housed in it, any person who without lawful authority removes from the building or its grounds the whole or part of any article displayed or kept for display to the public in the building or that part of it or in its grounds shall be guilty of an offence.

For this purpose "**collection**" includes a collection got together for a temporary purpose, but references in this section to a collection do not apply to a collection made or exhibited for the purpose of effecting sales or other commercial dealings.

(2) It is immaterial for purposes of subsection (1) of this section, that the public's access to a building is limited to a particular period or particular occasion; but where anything removed from a building or its grounds is there otherwise than as forming part of, or being on loan for exhibition with, a collection intended for permanent exhibition to the public, the person removing it does not thereby commit an offence under this section unless he removes it on a day when the public have access to the building as mentioned in the said subsection (1).

(3) A person does not commit an offence under this section if he believes that he has lawful authority for the removal of the thing in question or that he would have it if the person entitled to give it knew of the removal and the circumstances of it.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

Taking motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority.

12. (1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) of this section, a person shall be guilty of an offence if, without having the consent of the owner or other lawful authority, he takes any conveyance for his own or another's use or, knowing that any conveyance has been taken without such authority, drives it or allows himself to be carried in or on it.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) of this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

(3) If on the trial of any person charged with theft the court is not satisfied that the accused committed theft, but it is proved that the accused committed an offence under subsection (1) of this section, the court may find him guilty of the offence under the said subsection (1).

(4) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply in relation to pedal cycles; but, subject to subsection (5) thereof, a person who, without having the consent of the owner or other lawful authority, takes a pedal cycle for his own or another's use, or rides a pedal cycle knowing it to having been taken without such authority, shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [level 2 on the uniform scale].

(5) A person does not commit an offence under this section by anything done in the belief that he has lawful authority to do it or that he would have the owner's consent if the owner knew of his doing it and the circumstances of it.

(6) For purposes of this section –

(a) "**conveyance**" means any conveyance constructed or adapted for the carriage of a person or persons whether by land, water or air, except that it does not include a conveyance constructed or adapted for use only under the control of a person not carried in or on it, and "**drive**" shall be construed accordingly, and

(b) "**owner**", in relation to a conveyance which is the subject of a hiring agreement or hire-purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the conveyance under that agreement.

NOTES

In section 12, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st July, 1989.

In accordance with the provisions of the Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Guernsey) Law, 1989, section 2A(7), Schedule, with effect from 11th February, 2004, offences under this section constitute "traffic offences" for the purposes of the 1989 Law.

Abstracting of electricity.

13. A person who dishonestly uses without due authority, or dishonestly causes to be wasted or diverted, any electricity shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

Extension to thefts from mails in transit between different parts of the Bailiwick, and robbery etc. on such a theft.

14. (1) Where a person –
- (a) steals or attempts to steal any mail bag or postal packet in the course of transmission as such between places in different parts of the Bailiwick, or any of the contents of such a mail bag or postal packet, or
 - (b) in stealing or with intent to steal any such mail bag or postal packet or any of its contents, commits any robbery, attempted robbery or assault with intent to rob,

then, notwithstanding that he does so outside the Bailiwick, he shall be guilty of committing or attempting to commit the offence against this Law as if he had done so in the Bailiwick; and he shall accordingly be liable to be prosecuted, tried and punished in any part of the Bailiwick without proof that the offence was committed

there.

(2) For purposes of this section "**mail bag**" includes any article serving the purpose of a mail bag.

Fraud and blackmail

Obtaining property by deception.

15. (1) A person who by any deception dishonestly obtains property belonging to another, with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it, shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

(2) For purposes of this section a person is to be treated as obtaining property if he obtains ownership, possession or control of it, and "**obtain**" includes obtaining for another or enabling another to obtain or to retain.

(3) Section six of this Law shall apply for purposes of this section, with the necessary adaptation of the reference to appropriating, as it applies for purposes of section one of this Law.

(4) For purposes of this section "**deception**" means any deception (whether deliberate or reckless) by words or conduct as to fact or as to law, including a deception as to the present intentions of the person using the deception or any other person.

NOTE

The following cases have referred to section 15:

Law Officers of the Crown v. Diment (1993) 16.GLJ.86;
McCarthy v. Law Officers of the Crown 2007–08 GLR 414.

[Obtaining a money transfer by deception.]

15A. (1) A person is guilty of an offence if by any deception he dishonestly obtains a money transfer for himself or another.

(2) A money transfer occurs when –

- (a) a debit is made to one account,
- (b) a credit is made to another account, and
- (c) the credit results from the debit or the debit results from the credit.

(3) References to a credit and to a debit are to a credit of an amount of money and to a debit of an amount of money.

(4) It is immaterial (in particular) –

- (a) whether the amount credited is the same as the amount debited,
- (b) whether the money transfer is effected on presentment of a cheque or by another method,
- (c) whether any delay occurs in the process by which the money transfer is effected,
- (d) whether any intermediate credits or debits are made in the course of the money transfer,
- (e) whether either of the accounts is overdrawn before or

after the money transfer is effected.

(5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.]

NOTE

Section 15A was inserted by the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 1999, section 1(1), with effect from 4th October, 1999.

[Provision supplementary to section 15A.

15B. (1) The following provisions have effect for the interpretation of section 15A.

(2) **"Deception"** has the same meaning as in section 15.

[(3) **"Account"** means an account kept with –

(a) a bank,

(b) a person carrying on a business which falls within subsection (4) below, or

(c) an issuer of electronic money [(as defined in the definition inserted by paragraph 5(f) of the First Schedule to the Transfer of Funds (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2017)].]

(4) A business falls within this subsection if –

(a) in the course of the business money received by way of

deposit is lent to others, or

- (b) any other activity of the business is financed, wholly or to any material extent, out of the capital of or the interest on money received by way of deposit,

and "**deposit**" has the same meaning as in section 21 of the Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1994* .

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) –

- (a) all the activities which a person carries on by way of business shall be regarded as a single business carried on by him, and

[(b) "**money**" includes money expressed in a currency other than sterling.]]

NOTES

Section 15B was inserted by the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 1999, section 1(1), with effect from 4th October, 1999.

In section 15B,

subsection (3), and paragraph (b) of subsection (5), were substituted by the Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009, section 14, Schedule, respectively paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, with effect from 1st October, 2009;

the words in square brackets within subsection (3) were substituted by the Transfer of Funds (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2017, section 14(2), with effect from 26th June, 2017.

The Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1994 has since been

* Order in Council No. XIII of 1994.

repealed by the Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020, section 67(a), with effect from 1st November, 2021, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 68 of the 2020 Law.

Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception.

16. (1) A person who by any deception dishonestly obtains for himself or another any pecuniary advantage shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

(2) The cases in which a pecuniary advantage within the meaning of this section is to be regarded as obtained for a person are cases where –

- (a) he is allowed to borrow by way of overdraft, or to take out any policy of insurance or annuity contract, or obtains an improvement of the terms on which he is allowed to do so, or
- (b) he is given the opportunity to earn remuneration or greater remuneration in an office or employment, or to win money by betting.

(3) For purposes of this section "**deception**" has the same meaning as in section fifteen of this Law.

Obtaining services by deception.

17. (1) A person who by any deception dishonestly obtains services from another shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) It is an obtaining of services where the other is induced to confer a benefit by doing some act, or causing or permitting some act to be done, on the understanding that the benefit has been or will be paid for.

[(2A) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2), it is an obtaining of services where the other is induced to make a loan, or to cause or permit a loan to be made, on the understanding that any payment (whether by way of interest or otherwise) will be or has been made in respect of the loan.]

(3) For the purposes of this section "**deception**" has the same meaning as in section fifteen of this Law.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

NOTE

In section 17, subsection (2A) was inserted by the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 1999, section 2(1), with effect from 4th October, 1999.

Evasion of liability by deception.

18. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, where a person by any deception –

- (a) dishonestly secures the remission of the whole or part of any existing liability to make a payment, whether his own liability or another's, or
- (b) with intent to make permanent default in whole or in part on any existing liability to make a payment, or with intent to let another do so, dishonestly induces the creditor or any person claiming payment on behalf of the creditor to wait for payment (whether or not the due date for payment is deferred) or to forego payment, or

- (c) dishonestly obtains any exemption from or abatement of liability to make a payment,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) For the purposes of this section –

- (a) **"deception"** has the same meaning as in section fifteen of this Law,
- (b) **"liability"** means legally enforceable liability; and subsection (1) of this section shall not apply in relation to a liability that has not been accepted or established to pay compensation for a wrongful act or omission.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section a person induced to take in payment a cheque or other security for money by way of conditional satisfaction of a pre-existing liability is to be treated not as being paid but as being induced to wait for payment.

(4) For purposes of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section **"obtains"** includes obtaining for another or enabling another to obtain.

(5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

False accounting.

19. (1) Where a person dishonestly, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, –

- (a) destroys, defaces, conceals or falsifies any account or any record or document made or required for any accounting purpose, or
- (b) in furnishing information for any purpose produces or makes use of any account, or any such record or document as aforesaid, which to his knowledge is or may be misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular,

he shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

(2) For purposes of this section a person who makes or concurs in making in an account or other document an entry which is or may be misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular, or who omits or concurs in omitting a material particular from an account or other document, is to be treated as falsifying the account or document.

NOTE

The following cases have referred to section 19:

Law Officers of the Crown v. Diment (1993) 16.GLJ.86;
Law Officers of the Crown v. Whittaker (1987-88) 6.GLJ.67 (see also Court of Appeal Judgments, 1964-89, p. 375).

Liability of company officers for certain offences by company.

20. (1) Where an offence committed by a body corporate under section fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen or nineteen of this Law is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in

any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence, and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, this section shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

False statements by company directors, etc.

21. (1) Where an officer of a body corporate or unincorporated association (or person purporting to act as such), with intent to deceive members or creditors of the body corporate or association about its affairs, publishes or concurs in publishing a written statement or account which to his knowledge is or may be misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular, he shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

(2) For purposes of this section a person who has entered into a security for the benefit of a body corporate or association is to be treated as a creditor of it.

(3) Where the affairs of a body corporate or association are managed by its members, this section shall apply to any statement which a member publishes or concurs in publishing in connection with his functions of management as if he were an officer of the body corporate or association.

Suppression, etc. of documents.

22. (1) A person who dishonestly, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, destroys, defaces or conceals any valuable security, any will or other testamentary document or any specified document shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

(2) A person who dishonestly, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, by any deception procures the execution of a valuable security shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years; and this subsection shall apply in relation to the making, acceptance, indorsement, alteration, cancellation or destruction in whole or in part of a valuable security, and in relation to the signing or sealing of any paper or other material in order that it may be made or converted into, or used or dealt with as, a valuable security, as if that were the execution of a valuable security.

(3) For purposes of this section –

"deception" has the same meaning as in section fifteen of this Law,

"specified document" means –

- (a) any record, cause, process, deposition, affidavit, rule, order or any original document whatsoever of or belonging to the Court of Appeal, the Royal Court or any Division thereof, the Magistrate's Court, the Ecclesiastical Court, the Court of Alderney or the Court of the Seneschal of Sark, or relating to any matter, civil or criminal, begun, depending or terminated in any such Court, or
- (b) any original document in anywise relating to the business of any office or employment under Her Majesty, the States of Guernsey, the States of Alderney or the Chief Pleas of Sark, and being or remaining in any office appertaining to any court of justice, or in any Crown or public office, or

- (c) any document forming part of the public records of the Islands of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark respectively,

"**valuable security**" means any document creating, transferring, surrendering or releasing any right to, in or over property, or authorising the payment of money or delivery of any property, or evidencing the creation, transfer, surrender or release of any such right, or the payment of money or delivery of any property, or the satisfaction of any obligation.

Blackmail.

23. (1) A person is guilty of blackmail if, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, he makes any unwarranted demand with menaces; and for this purpose a demand with menaces is unwarranted unless the person making it does so in the belief –

- (a) that he has reasonable grounds for making the demand, and
- (b) that the use of the menaces is a proper means of reinforcing the demand.

(2) The nature of the act or omission demanded is immaterial, and it is also immaterial whether the menaces relate to action to be taken by the person making the demand.

(3) A person guilty of blackmail shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Making off without payment

Making off without payment.

24. (1) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a person who, knowing that payment on the spot for any goods supplied or service done is required or expected from him, dishonestly makes off without having paid as required or expected and with intent to avoid payment of the amount due shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) For purposes of this section "**payment on the spot**" includes payment at the time of collecting goods on which work has been done or in respect of which service has been provided.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply where the supply of the goods or the doing of the service is contrary to law, or where the service done is such that payment is not legally enforceable.

(4) Any person may arrest without warrant anyone who is, or whom he, with reasonable cause, suspects to be, committing or attempting to commit an offence under this section.

(5) Subsection (4) of this section shall not prejudice any power of arrest conferred by law apart from the said subsection.

(6) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Offences relating to goods stolen, etc.

Handling stolen goods.

25. (1) A person handles stolen goods if (otherwise than in the course of the stealing) knowing or believing them to be stolen goods he dishonestly receives the goods, or dishonestly undertakes or assists in their retention, removal, disposal or realisation by or for the benefit of another person, or if he arranges to do so.

(2) A person guilty of handling stolen goods shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Advertising rewards for return of goods stolen or lost.

26. Where any public advertisement of a reward for the return of any goods which have been stolen or lost uses any words to the effect that no questions will be asked, or that the person producing the goods will be safe from apprehension or inquiry, or that any money paid for the purchase of the goods or advanced by way of loan on them will be repaid, the person advertising the reward and any person who prints or publishes the advertisement shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [level 3 on the uniform scale].

NOTE

In section 26, the words and figure in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st July, 1989.

Scope of offences relating to stolen goods.

27. (1) The provisions of this Law relating to goods which have been stolen shall apply whether the stealing occurred in the Bailiwick or elsewhere, and whether it occurred before or after the commencement of this Law, provided that the stealing (if not an offence under this Law) amounted to an offence where and at the time when the goods were stolen; and references to stolen goods shall be construed accordingly.

(2) For purposes of those provisions references to stolen goods shall include, in addition to the goods originally stolen and parts of them (whether in their original state or not), –

(a) any other goods which directly or indirectly represent

or have at any time represented the stolen goods in the hands of the thief as being the proceeds of any disposal or realisation of the whole or part of the goods stolen or of goods so representing the stolen goods, and

- (b) any other goods which directly or indirectly represent or have at any time represented the stolen goods in the hands of a handler of the stolen goods or any part of them as being the proceeds of any disposal or realisation of the whole or part of the stolen goods handled by him or of goods so representing them.

(3) But no goods shall be regarded as having continued to be stolen goods after they have been restored to the person from whom they were stolen or to other lawful possession or custody, or after that person and any other person claiming through him have otherwise ceased as regards those goods to have any right to restitution in respect of the theft.

(4) For purposes of the provisions of this Law relating to goods which have been stolen (including subsections (1) to (3) of this section) goods obtained in the Bailiwick or elsewhere either by blackmail or in the circumstances described in subsection (1) of section fifteen of this Law[, or, subject to subsection (5), by fraud (within the meaning of the Fraud Law)] shall be regarded as stolen; and "**steal**", "**theft**" and "**thief**" shall be construed accordingly.

[(5) Subsection (1) applies in relation to goods obtained by fraud as if –

- (a) the reference to the commencement of this Law were a reference to the commencement of the Fraud Law, and

- (b) the reference to an offence under this Law were a reference to an offence under section 1 of that Law.]

NOTE

In section 27, subsection (5), and the words in square brackets in subsection (4), were inserted by the Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009, section 14, Schedule, respectively paragraph 4 and paragraph 3, with effect from 1st October, 2009.

[Dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit.]

27A. (1) A person is guilty of an offence if –

- (a) a wrongful credit has been made to an account kept by him or in respect of which he has any right or interest,
- (b) he knows or believes that the credit is wrongful, and
- (c) he dishonestly fails to take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to secure that the credit is cancelled.

(2) References to a credit are to a credit of an amount of money.

(3) A credit to an account is wrongful if it is the credit side of a money transfer obtained contrary to section 15A.

[(4) A credit to an account is also wrongful to the extent that it derives from –

- (a) theft,

- (b) an offence under section 15A,
- (c) blackmail,
- (d) fraud (contrary to section 1 of the Fraud Law), or
- (e) stolen goods.]

(5) In determining whether a credit to an account is wrongful, it is immaterial (in particular) whether the account is overdrawn before or after the credit is made.

(6) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

(7) Subsection (8) applies for the purposes of the provisions of this Law relating to stolen goods (including subsection (4)).

(8) References to stolen goods include money which is dishonestly withdrawn from an account to which a wrongful credit has been made, but only to the extent that the money derives from the credit.

(9) In this section "**account**" and "**money**" shall be construed in accordance with section 15B.]

NOTES

Section 27A was inserted by the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 1999, section 3(1), with effect from 4th October, 1999.

In section 27A, subsection (4) was substituted by the Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009, section 14, Schedule, paragraph 5, with effect from 1st October, 2009.

Possession of house-breaking implements, etc.

Going equipped for stealing, etc.

28. (1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, when not at his place of abode, he has with him any article for use in the course of or in connection with any burglary, theft or cheat.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

(3) Where a person is charged with an offence under this section, proof that he had with him any article made or adapted for use in committing a burglary, theft or cheat shall be evidence that he had it with him for such use.

(4) For purposes of this section an offence under subsection (1) of section twelve of this Law of taking a conveyance shall be treated as theft, and "**cheat**" means an offence under section fifteen of this Law.

Offences relating to fish

Taking or destroying fish.

29. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a person who unlawfully takes or destroys, or attempts to take or destroy, any fish in water which is private property or in which there is any private right of fishery shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [level 3 on the uniform scale] or, for an offence committed after a previous conviction of an offence under this subsection, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding [level 4 on the uniform scale] or to both.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to taking or destroying fish by angling in the daytime (that is to say, in the period beginning one hour before sunrise and ending one hour after sunset); but a person who by angling in the daytime unlawfully takes or destroys, or attempts to take or destroy, any fish in water which is private property or in which there is any private right of fishery shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [level 1 on the uniform scale].

(3) The court by which a person is convicted of an offence under this section may order the forfeiture of anything which, at the time of the offence, he had with him for use for taking or destroying fish.

(4) For purposes of this section "fish" includes shellfish.

NOTE

In section 29, the words and figures in square brackets were substituted by the Uniform Scale of Fines (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1989, section 2(2), with effect from 1st July, 1989.

*Powers of the court in the case of certain offences
relating to motor vehicles*

Suspension, etc. of driving licences of persons convicted of certain offences relating to motor vehicles.

30. (1) Where any person is convicted of an offence to which this section applies, Article fourteen of the Law entitled "Loi relative aux Automobiles" registered on the eleventh day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, as amended^a, (which relates to the suspension of or disqualification from holding or applying for a driving licence) shall have effect as though such offence were an offence to which the said Article applies.

^a Ordres en Conseil Vol. VIII, p. 56; Vol. IX, p. 299.

- (2) The offences to which this section applies are –
- (a) stealing or attempting to steal a motor vehicle,
 - (b) an offence or an attempt to commit an offence in respect of a motor vehicle under section twelve of this Law (which relates to taking a motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority);
 - (c) an offence committed with reference to a motor vehicle under section twenty-eight of this Law (which relates to going equipped for stealing, etc.).

NOTE

The Loi relative aux Automobiles, 1926 has since been repealed by the Motor Taxation (Abolition) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2006, section 3(1), Schedule, Part I, with effect from 1st January, 2008.

Enforcement and procedure

Search for stolen goods.

31. [(1) If the Bailiff is satisfied by information on oath given by an officer of police and in relation to Guernsey being of a rank not lower than that of inspector that there is reasonable cause to believe that any person has in his custody or possession or on his premises any property whatsoever, with respect to which any offence against this Law has been committed, the Bailiff may grant a warrant to search for and seize the same.

(2) Any officer of police may, if authorised in writing by the Chief Officer of Police, enter any premises, and search for and seize any property he

believes to have been stolen, and where any property is seized in pursuance of this section, the person on whose premises it was at the time of seizure or the person from whom it was taken shall, unless previously charged with handling the same, be summoned before the appropriate Court to account for his possession of such property, and such Court shall make such order respecting the disposal of such property and may award such costs as the justice of the case may require.

(3) It shall be lawful for the Chief Officer of Police to give such authority as aforesaid –

- (a) when the premises to be searched are, or within the preceding twelve months have been, in the occupation of any person who has been convicted of handling stolen property or of harbouring thieves, or
- (b) when the premises to be searched are in the occupation of any person who has been convicted of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty and punishable with imprisonment.]

[(4) The Chief Officer of Police may give such authority if he has reason to believe that there may be stolen goods at the premises to be searched, and need not specify any particular property.]

[(5) For purposes of this section –

["the appropriate Court" means –

- (a) in relation to Guernsey, the Magistrate's Court set up under the Magistrate's Court (Guernsey) Law, 1954,

- (b) in relation to Alderney, the Court of Alderney, and
- (c) in relation to Sark, the Court of the Seneschal,]

"The Bailiff" means –

- (a) in relation to Guernsey, Herm and Jethou, the Bailiff, the Deputy Bailiff, a Lieutenant-Bailiff or the Juge Délégué,
- (b) in relation to Alderney, the Chairman of the Court of Alderney, and
- (c) in relation to Sark, the Seneschal,

"The Chief Officer of Police" means –

- (a) in relation to Guernsey, Herm and Jethou, the Chief Officer of the salaried police force of the Island of Guernsey,
- (b) in relation to Alderney, the said Chief Officer or the Clerk of the Court of Alderney, and
- (c) in relation to Sark, the Constable,

"police officer" means –

- (a) in relation to Guernsey, Herm and Jethou, a member of the salaried police force of the Island of Guernsey and, within the limit of his jurisdiction, a member of the

special constabulary of the Island of Guernsey,

- (b) in relation to Alderney, a member of the said police force and a member of any police force which may be established by the States of Alderney, and
- (c) in relation to Sark, the Constable, the Vingtenier and a member of the said police force of Guernsey.

[(6)] This section is to be construed in accordance with section twenty-seven of this Law; and in subsection (2) of this section the references to handling stolen goods shall include any corresponding offence committed before the commencement of this Law.

NOTES

In section 31,

subsection (1), subsection (2) and subsection (3) were substituted, and subsection (4) was inserted, by the Administration of Justice (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1991, section 9(1), with effect from 28th May, 1991;

subsection (4) was renumbered as subsection (5) by the Administration of Justice (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1991, section 9(2), with effect from 28th May, 1991;

the words in square brackets in subsection (5) were inserted by the Magistrate's Court and Miscellaneous Reforms (Guernsey) Law, 1996, section 2, with effect from 1st February, 1997;

subsection (5) was renumbered as subsection (6) by the Administration of Justice (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1991, section 9(2), with effect from 28th May, 1991.

In accordance with the provisions of the Government of Alderney Law, 2004, section 20(1), with effect from 1st May, 2005, the person appointed to the office of Greffier is to act as the Clerk of the Court and in accordance with the provisions of section 25(1)(e), with effect from that same date, the functions of the Greffier include the functions assigned by law to the Clerk of the Court.

In accordance with the provisions of the Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and Financial Intelligence Unit (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2022, section 8, Schedule 2, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, with effect from 20th October, 2022, unless the contrary intention appears and subject to any regulations made under section 8(3), first, any reference to a police officer in this Law and any subordinate legislation made hereunder includes a reference to the Director of the Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and designated persons and to members of the Financial Intelligence Unit and, second, subject to the provisions of section 8(4), any power in an enactment to disclose information to a police officer or customs officer for a specified purpose includes a power to disclose that information to the Director of the Economic and Financial Crime Bureau and designated persons and to members of the Financial Intelligence Unit for the purpose of carrying out their functions.

In accordance with the provisions of the Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1986, section 2(2), with effect from 19th August, 1986, the reference herein to a member of the salaried police force of the Island of Guernsey shall include a reference to a member of a force present in the Island by virtue of an agreement made under section 1 of the 1986 Law.

The Magistrate's Court (Guernsey) Law, 1954 has since been repealed by the Magistrate's Court (Guernsey) Law, 2008, section 46(b), with effect from 1st September, 2009, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 47 of the 2008 Law.

Evidence and procedure on charge of theft or handling stolen goods.

32. (1) Any number of persons may be charged in one indictment, with reference to the same theft, with having at different times or at the same time handled all or any of the stolen goods, and the persons so charged may be tried together.

(2) On the trial of two or more persons indicted for jointly handling any stolen goods the court may find any of the accused guilty if the court is satisfied that he handled all or any of the stolen goods, whether or not he did so jointly with the other accused or any of them.

(3) Where a person is being proceeded against for handling stolen goods (but not for any offence other than handling stolen goods), then at any stage of

the proceedings, if evidence has been given of his having or arranging to have in his possession the goods the subject of the charge, or of his undertaking or assisting in, or arranging to undertake or assist in, their retention, removal, disposal or realisation, the following evidence shall be admissible for the purpose of proving that he knew or believed the goods to be stolen goods –

- (a) evidence that he has had in his possession, or has undertaken or assisted in the retention, removal, disposal or realisation of, stolen goods from any theft taking place not earlier than twelve months before the offence charged, and
- (b) (provided that seven days' notice in writing has been given to him of the intention to prove the conviction) evidence that he has within the five years preceding the date of the offence charged been convicted of theft or of handling stolen goods.

(4) In any proceedings for the theft of anything in the course of transmission (whether by post or otherwise), or for handling stolen goods from such a theft, an affidavit made by any person that he despatched or received or failed to receive any goods or postal packet, or that any goods or postal packet when despatched or received by him were in a particular state or condition, shall be admissible as evidence of the facts stated in the declaration, subject to the following conditions –

- (a) an affidavit shall only be admissible where and to the extent to which oral evidence to the like effect would have been admissible in the proceedings, and
- (b) an affidavit shall only be admissible if at least nine days

before the hearing or trial a copy of it has been given to the person charged, and he has not, at least five days before the hearing or trial or within such further time as the court may in special circumstances allow, given the prosecutor written notice requiring the attendance at the hearing or trial of the person making the declaration.

(5) This section is to be construed in accordance with section twenty-seven of this Law; and in paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section the reference to handling stolen goods shall include any corresponding offence committed before the commencement of this Law.

(6) For purposes of this section "**affidavit**" means a declaration in writing which is deposed to on oath or by affirmation or solemn declaration by the declarant and attested by any of the following persons, that is to say –

- (a) any person for the time being authorised by law in the place where the document is executed to administer an oath for any judicial or other legal purpose,
- (b) a British consular officer, or
- (c) a notary public.

Orders for restitution.

33. (1) Where goods have been stolen, and either a person is convicted of any offence with reference to the theft (whether or not the stealing is the gist of his offence) or a person is convicted of any other offence but such an offence as aforesaid is taken into consideration in determining his sentence, the court by or before which the offender is convicted may on the conviction (whether or not the passing of sentence is in other respects deferred) exercise any of the following powers –

- (a) the court may order anyone having possession or control of the goods to restore them to any person entitled to recover them from him, or
- (b) on the application of a person entitled to recover from the person convicted any other goods directly or indirectly representing the first-mentioned goods (as being the proceeds of any disposal or realisation of the whole or part of them or of goods so representing them), the court may order those other goods to be delivered or transferred to the applicant, or
- (c) the court may order that a sum not exceeding the value of the first-mentioned goods shall be paid, out of any money of the person convicted which was taken out of his possession on his apprehension, to any person who, if those goods were in the possession of the person convicted, would be entitled to recover them from him.

(2) Where under subsection (1) of this section the court has power on a person's conviction to make an order against him both under paragraph (b) and under paragraph (c) with reference to the stealing of the same goods, the court may make orders under both paragraphs provided that the person in whose favour the orders are made does not thereby recover more than the value of those goods.

(3) Where under subsection (1) of this section the court on a person's conviction makes an order under paragraph (a) for the restoration of any goods, and it appears to the court that the person convicted has sold the goods to a person acting in good faith, or has borrowed money on the security of them from a person so acting, the court may order that there shall be paid to the purchaser or

lender, out of any money of the person convicted which was taken out of his possession on his apprehension, a sum not exceeding the amount paid for the purchase by the purchaser or, as the case may be, the amount owed to the lender in respect of the loan.

(4) The court shall not exercise the powers conferred by this section unless in the opinion of the court the relevant facts sufficiently appear from evidence given at the trial or the available documents, together with admissions made by or on behalf of any person in connection with any proposed exercise of the powers; and for this purpose "**the available documents**" means any written statements or admissions which were made for use, and would have been admissible, as evidence at the trial, the depositions taken at any committal proceedings and any written statements or admissions used as evidence in those proceedings.

(5) References in this section to stealing are to be construed in accordance with subsection (1) and subsection (4) of section twenty-seven of this Law.

Further provisions concerning orders for restitution.

34. (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect with respect to section thirty-three of this Law.

(2) The powers conferred by –

- (a) paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of the said section thirty-three (payment to owner of stolen goods out of money taken from the offender on his apprehension), and
- (b) subsection (3) of that section (payment to purchaser of, and lender on the security of, stolen goods out of

money so taken),

shall be exercisable without any application being made in that behalf or on the application of any person appearing to the court to be interested in the property concerned.

(3) The powers conferred by the said section thirty-three shall be exercisable not only where a person is convicted of an offence with reference to the theft of the goods in question but also where, on the conviction of a person of any other offence, the court takes an offence with reference to the theft of those goods into consideration in determining sentence.

(4) Where an order is made under the said section thirty-three against any person in respect of an offence taken into consideration in determining his sentence –

- (a) the order shall cease to have effect if he successfully appeals against his conviction of the offence or, if more than one, all the offences, of which he was convicted in the proceedings in which the order was made,
- (b) he may appeal against the order as if it were part of the sentence imposed in respect of the offence or, if more than one, any of the offences, of which he was so convicted.

(5) Any order under the said section thirty-three made by the appropriate court shall be suspended –

- (a) in any case until the expiration of the period for the time being prescribed by law for the giving of notice of

appeal against a decision of the appropriate court,

- (b) where notice of appeal is given within the period so prescribed, until the determination of the appeal,

but this subsection shall not apply where the order is made under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of the said section thirty-three and the court so directs, being of the opinion that the title to the goods to be restored or, as the case may be, delivered, or transferred under the order is not in dispute.

- (6) For purposes of this section, "**the appropriate court**" means –

- (a) in relation to Guernsey, Herm and Jethou, the Magistrate's Court,
- (b) in relation to Alderney, the Court of Alderney,
- (c) in relation to Sark, the Court of the Seneschal, and
- (d) in relation to Alderney and Sark, the Royal Court of the Island of Guernsey sitting as an Ordinary Court in exercise of its original summary jurisdiction in criminal matters arising in Alderney and Sark.

Trial of offences.

35. (1) Where, on a person's trial on indictment for any offence under this Law, the court finds him not guilty of the offence specifically charged in the indictment, but the allegations in the indictment amount to or include (expressly or by implication) an allegation of another offence falling within the jurisdiction of the court of trial, the court may find him guilty of that other offence or of an offence of which he could be guilty on an indictment specifically charging that other offence.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section any allegation of an offence shall be taken as including an allegation of attempting to commit that offence; and where a person is charged on indictment with attempting to commit an offence or with any assault or other act preliminary to an offence, but not with the completed offence, then he may be convicted of the offence charged notwithstanding that he is shown to be guilty of the completed offence.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section shall apply to an indictment containing more than one count as if each count were a separate indictment.

General and consequential provisions

Accessories and abettors.

36. Every person who knowingly and wilfully aids, abets, counsels, procures or commands the commission of an offence punishable under this Law shall be liable to be dealt with, indicted, tried and punished as a principal offender.

Penalties for assisting offenders.

37. (1) Where a person has committed an offence under this Law, any other person who, knowing or believing him to be guilty of the offence or of some other offence under this Law, does without lawful authority or reasonable excuse any act with intent to impede his apprehension or prosecution shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If on the trial of an indictment for an offence under this Law the court is satisfied that the offence charged (or some other offence of which the accused might on that charge be found guilty) was committed, but finds the accused not guilty of it, the court may find him guilty of any offence under subsection (1) of this section of which the court is satisfied that he is guilty in relation to the offence charged (or that other offence).

(3) A person committing an offence under subsection (1) of this section with intent to impede another person's apprehension or prosecution shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment according to the gravity of the other person's offence as follows –

- (a) if that offence is one for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment for life, he shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than ten years,
- (b) if it is one for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of fourteen years, he shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than seven years,
- (c) if it is not one included above but is one for which a person may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of ten years, he shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than five years,
- (d) in any other case, he shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than three years.

Attempts.

38. (1) Every person who attempts to commit an offence punishable under this Law shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to such term of imprisonment or such fine or to such term of imprisonment and such fine as the court may deem just:

Provided that as respects any attempt to commit any such offence the court may not impose any punishment exceeding that which the court might have imposed if the offence had been completed.

(2) If, on the trial of any person charged with any offence under this Law, it appears to the court upon the evidence that the person so charged did not complete the offence charged but that he was guilty only of an attempt to commit the same, such person shall not by reason thereof be entitled to be acquitted, and the court may find that person not guilty of the offence charged but guilty of the attempt to commit the same and thereupon he shall be liable to be punished accordingly.

Fines.

39. On conviction of an offence punishable under this Law other than an offence under section thirty-eight thereof (which relates to attempts), the court, instead of or in addition to any other punishment which may be lawfully imposed, may fine the offender.

Effect on existing law and construction of references to offences.

40. (1) The following offences are hereby abolished for all purposes not relating to offences committed before the commencement of this Law, that is to say –

- (a) any offence at common law of larceny, robbery, burglary, receiving stolen property, obtaining property by threats, and, except as regards offences relating to the public revenue, cheating, and
- (b) any offence under the Larceny (Guernsey) Law, 1958^b or under any provision which is repealed by subsection (2) of section forty-one of this Law of an enactment mentioned in the first column of the Schedule to this Law, to the extent to which the offence depends on any

^b Ordres en Conseil Vol. XVII, p. 308.

section or part of a section included in the second column of that Schedule.

(2) Except as regards offences committed before the commencement of this Law, and except in so far as the context otherwise requires, –

(a) references in any enactment passed before this Law to an offence abolished by this Law shall, subject to any express amendment or repeal made by this Law, have effect as references to the corresponding offence under this Law, and in any such enactment the expression "**receive**" (when it relates to an offence of receiving) shall mean handle, and "**receiver**" shall be construed accordingly, and

(b) without prejudice to paragraph (a) above, references in any enactment, whenever passed, to theft or stealing (including references to stolen goods), and references to robbery, blackmail, burglary, aggravated burglary or handling stolen goods, shall be construed in accordance with the provisions of this Law, including those of section twenty-seven of this Law.

Repeal and amendments.

41. (1) The Larceny (Guernsey) Law, 1958, is hereby repealed.

(2) The enactments set out in the first column of the Schedule to this Law are hereby amended to the extent specified in the second column thereof.

Interpretation.

42. (1) Subsection (1) of section four and subsection (1) of section five

of this Law shall apply generally for purposes of this Law as they apply for purposes of section one thereof.

(2) For purposes of this Law –

"the Bailiwick" means the Bailiwick of Guernsey,

[**"the Fraud Law"** means the Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009,]

"gain" and **"loss"** are to be construed as extending only to gain or loss in money or other property, but as extending to any such gain or loss whether temporary or permanent, and –

- (i) **"gain"** includes a gain by keeping what one has, as well as a gain by getting what one has not, and
- (ii) **"loss"** includes a loss by not getting what one might get, as well as a loss by parting with what one has,

"goods", except in so far as the context otherwise requires, includes money and every other description of property except land, and includes things severed from the land by stealing,

"indicted" includes charged,

"indictment" includes charge.

(3) Except in so far as the context otherwise requires, any

reference in this Law to any other enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended, repealed and replaced, extended or applied by or under any other enactment including this Law.

(4) The Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948^c, shall apply to the interpretation of this Law throughout the Bailiwick.

NOTES

In section 42, the definition of the expression "the Fraud Law" in subsection (2) was inserted by the substituted by the Fraud (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2009, section 14, Schedule, paragraph 6, with effect from 1st October, 2009.

The Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948 has since been repealed by the Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016, section 28(a), with effect from 1st October, 2018.

Commencement and transitional provisions.

43. (1) This Law shall come into force on such day as the States of Guernsey may by Ordinance appoint in that behalf and, save as otherwise provided by this Law, shall have effect only in relation to offences wholly or partly committed on or after that date.

(2) Sections thirty-two, thirty-three and thirty-four of this Law shall apply in relation to proceedings for an offence committed before the commencement of this Law as they would apply in relation to proceedings for a corresponding offence under this Law, and shall so apply in place of any corresponding enactment repealed by this Law.

(3) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, no repeal or amendment by this Law of any enactment relating to procedure or evidence, or to the

^c Ordres en Conseil Vol. XIII, p. 355.

jurisdiction or powers of any court, or to the effect of a conviction, shall affect the operation of the enactment in relation to offences committed before the commencement of this Law or to proceedings for any such offence.

NOTE

The Law was brought into force on 1st July, 1984 by the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1983 (Commencement) Ordinance, 1984, section 1.

Citation.

44. This Law may be cited as the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1983.

SCHEDULE
ENACTMENTS AMENDED

Section 41(2)

Enactment

Amendment

The Law entitled "Loi relative à la Police des Havres et de leurs Alentours" registered on the ninth day of August, eighteen hundred and seventy-two^a.

Paragraph 3⁰ of Article three is repealed.

The Law entitled "Loi relative à la Probation de Délinquants" registered on the twenty-third day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-nine^b.

Paragraph (4) of Article one is repealed and the following paragraph is substituted therefor –

" (4) Where an order under this article is made by the Police Court, the order shall for the purpose of enabling the Court to make any order under [section thirty-three of sey) Law, 1983, have the like the Theft (Bailiwick of Guern] effect as a conviction."¹

The Unlawful User of Vehicles Law, 1930^c.

Section two is repealed. In section four the words and figure "section 2 or" are repealed.

The Government of Alderney Law, 1948^d.

In subsection (2) of section twenty the words "theft with violence, fraud" are repealed and the word "robbery" is substituted therefor.

The Magistrate's Court (Guernsey)

In paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of

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- a** Ordres en Conseil Vol. II, p. 121.
b Ordres en Conseil Vol. VIII, p. 363.
c Ordres en Conseil Vol. IX, p. 8.
d Ordres en Conseil Vol. XIII, p. 416.

Law, 1954^e. section ten the words "with violence" are repealed.

The Unlawful User of Motor Vehicles (Alderney) Law, 1959^f. Section two is repealed. In section four the words "section two or" are repealed.

[...]

[...]

The Unlawful User of Vehicles (Amendment) (Guernsey) Law, 1970^h. Paragraph (a) of section one is repealed.

[...]

[...]

NOTES

In the Schedule,

the words omitted in the first pairs of square brackets in the left and right hand columns were repealed by the Post Office (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001, section 47, Schedule 2, Part II, paragraph 9, with effect from 1st October, 2001, subject to the transitional provisions in section 46 of, and Schedule 1 to, the 2001 Law;

the words omitted in the second pairs of square brackets in the left and right hand columns were repealed by the Telecommunications (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001, section 33(1), Schedule 2, Part II, paragraph 4, with effect from 1st October, 2001.

The Loi relative à la Probation de Délinquants, 1929 has since been repealed by the Probation (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018, section 21(1), with effect from 17th October, 2019.

The Government of Alderney Law, 1948 has since been repealed by the Government of Alderney Law, 1987, section 63(1), Schedule 3, with effect from 1st August 1987, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 63 and section 64 of the 1987 Law. The Government of Alderney

e Ordres en Conseil Vol. XVI, p. 103.
f Ordres en Conseil Vol. XVIII, p. 39.
h Ordres en Conseil Vol. XXII, p. 398.

Consolidated text

Law, 1987 has since been repealed by the Government of Alderney Law, 2004, section 63(1), Schedule 3, with effect from 1st May, 2005, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 63(2) and section 64 of the 2004 Law.

The Magistrate's Court (Guernsey) Law, 1954 has since been repealed by the Magistrate's Court (Guernsey) Law, 2008, section 46(b), with effect from 1st September, 2009, subject to the savings and transitional provisions in section 47 of the 2008 Law.

The words in square brackets in the right hand column corresponding to the entry for the Loi relative à la Probation de Délinquants shown, incorrectly, in the printed version of this Schedule as "section thirty-three of sey) Law, 1983, have the like the Theft (Bailiwick of Guern" should read "section thirty-three of the Theft (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1983, have the like".

1 For subsequent amendments, see the consolidated text of the Loi relative à la Probation de Délinquants, 1929.