



Resource 6 – A Guide to the Computer Misuse Act, 1990

The Computer Misuse Act (CMA), 1990, makes the following actions illegal:

Offence	Example of unlawful activity
Section 1 :- Unauthorised access to computer material	Without them knowing you watched your friend put their password into their phone. You then used it to gain access to their phone and download their photos.
Section 2 :- Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate the commission of further offences	Without their permission, you accessed your friends smartphone, obtaining their bank details, so you could transfer money from their account.
Section 3 :- Unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing operation of a computer	You used a booter tool to knock a friend offline from an online game.
Section 3ZA :- Unauthorised acts causing or creating risk of serious damage	You hacked into the computer system of a Government agency and were reckless as to the consequences. National Security was undermined.
Section 3A :- Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in another CMA offence	You downloaded a product to display malware to a friend's computer, so you could control it. You didn't even get the chance to use it!

Full text of the Act: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/18

Consequences of being involved in cyber crime

- A visit and warning from Police or NCA Officers
- Arrest
- Having your computer seized and internet access restricted
- Fine or penalty
- A significant prison sentence

A permanent criminal record could affect education and future career prospects, as well as overseas travel.

Cyber crime is not a victimless crime.

#CyberChoices

www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk

