



HOW TO REPORT ABUSIVE MESSAGES

When should I contact?

The police have powers to charge and prosecute people for sending abusive messages, which can lead them to being fined or facing more serious sanctions.

The BHA wants to protect our participants from abusive messages where this is possible and would like to know about all those cases where participants have gone to police.

How do I contact

Dual report to your local Police and to the BHA. If the sender is bound by the Rules of Racing, the BHA may be able to take action.

When will they take action?

The laws are specific and limited and the police are likely to take action only in the most serious circumstances, but it is still advisable to report abuse to them when it falls into the below categories:

Is the message indecent, grossly offensive, obscene, threatening or menacing?

- Receiving multiple messages may constitute as an offence of harassment. The messages do not necessarily have to be violent in nature but would need to have caused some alarm or distress.
- The abuse is prejudice in nature (for example race/ sexuality/ disability)

What action will they take?

The police will assess the seriousness of the offence and decide whether to charge the offender. In some cases, they may issue a caution and warn the offender not to make further contact with the subject of their abuse.

The BHA can take disciplinary action where the sender is bound by the Rules of Racing. This applies to anyone licensed by the BHA.

If someone is not licensed or registered, we can exclude them from the sport. This means they are not allowed to visit a racecourse.

Receiving abusive messages can be extremely upsetting. If you, or anyone you know has been affected by such messages, please make use of the support available:

- PJA Team: 01635 778108 or info@thepja.co.uk
- Sporting Chance: 24 hour support line **07780 008877**

For more information: <https://www.thepja.co.uk/service/mental-health-wellbeing/>