

Joint Charging Standards (CPS)

These can be found on [http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/l to o/offences against the person/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/l%20to%20o/offences%20against%20the%20person/) and were updated in October 2009. The purpose of them is to illustrate the levels of harm and differentiating factors between the different non-fatal offences.

In part they ameliorate the problems of the current definitions, but they also aim to provide consistency.

OFFENCE	INJURIES	AGGRAVATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Common Assault and Battery</p> <p>Charged under s.39 <u>Criminal Justice Act 1988</u></p>	<p>No more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graze • Scratch • Abrasion • Minor bruising • Black eye • Swelling • Reddening of skin • Superficial cuts • Undisplaced broken nose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapon • Biting • Gouging • Kicking V whilst on the ground • Strangulation (if it more than fleeting, or causes V to apprehend a real fear of immediate violence)
<p style="text-align: center;">Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm</p> <p>s.47 <u>Offences Against the Person Act 1861</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss/ broken tooth • Temporary loss of sensory function • Extensive/multiple bruising • Displaced/ broken nose • Minor fractures • Cuts requiring stitched • Psychiatric injury beyond fear/panic, supported by medical evidence. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Malicious wounding or Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm</p> <p>s.20 <u>Offences Against the Person Act 1861</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent disability • Loss of sensory function • More than minor permanent visible disfigurement • Broken or displaced limbs or bones • Fractured skull • Injuries requiring substantial loss of blood • Injury resulting in lengthy treatment or incapacitation. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Causing Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent.</p> <p>s. 18 <u>Offences Against the Person Act 1861</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated or planned attack • Deliberate selection of an article for attack • Adaption of an article for attack • Prior threats • Using a weapon on, or kicking, V's head