

## U.K. politician blocks passing of upskirting law

19th June, 2018



A politician in the United Kingdom has blocked a new law on upskirting from being passed. Upskirting is when someone secretly takes a photo under someone else's skirt. Many politicians wanted to make it a crime, with a two-year prison sentence. However, the politician Sir Christopher Chope blocked the government's attempt to pass the law. Mr Chope is a member of Prime Minister Theresa May's ruling Conservative Party. Ms May said she was "disappointed" that a member of her party blocked the law from being passed. She wanted to see upskirting become a criminal offence. She added that she wanted to see the bill pass soon, "with government support".

Upskirting is becoming a big problem around the world because of digital cameras on mobile phones. Thousands of women in many countries have complained after men have taken photos up their skirts. Quite often, the man uploads the photo to a website. Mr Chope did not tell reporters why he blocked the bill. However, Gina Martin, the woman who started the campaign for the upskirting law, said Mr Chope told her that he objected to it because it "wasn't debated" in parliament. She also said Mr Chope "wasn't really sure" what upskirting was. Politician Dawn Butler said: "It's absolutely disgusting that a male [politician] has blocked upskirting from becoming a criminal offence."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [businessinsider.com](http://businessinsider.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

### Writing

How serious is upskirting? What should the punishment be?

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

politician / secretly / crime / prison / attempt / disappointed / criminal / bill / support / problem / digital camera / photos / reporter / debated / parliament / disgusting / male

### True / False

- a) Politicians want a 5-year prison sentence for upskirting. T / F
- b) The politician was a member of the opposition party. T / F
- c) The UK's Prime Minister was disappointed with the politician. T / F
- d) The UK Prime Minister doesn't think the bill will be passed soon. T / F
- e) Upskirting is a big problem because of mobile phones. T / F
- f) The politician explained why he blocked the bill to journalists. T / F
- g) The politician said the law wasn't debated in parliament. T / F
- h) A politician said it was disgusting that a man blocked the upskirting bill. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>blocked</b>     | a. effort        |
| 2. <b>crime</b>       | b. sickening     |
| 3. <b>attempt</b>     | c. governing     |
| 4. <b>ruling</b>      | d. protested     |
| 5. <b>support</b>     | e. discussed     |
| 6. <b>becoming</b>    | f. obstructed    |
| 7. <b>complained</b>  | g. certain       |
| 8. <b>debated</b>     | h. help          |
| 9. <b>sure</b>        | i. offence       |
| 10. <b>disgusting</b> | j. getting to be |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is the mental state of people who take upskirting photos?
- c) What can social media sites do about upskirting?
- d) Should the bill have been debated in parliament?
- e) Should men be banned from voting on issues like this?
- f) Do men fully understand how disgusting upskirting is?
- g) What street technology could prevent upskirting?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the politician?

## Phrase Match

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. blocked a new law on upskirting | a. disgusting         |
| 2. someone secretly takes          | b. to pass the law    |
| 3. politicians wanted to make      | c. the bill pass soon |
| 4. the government's attempt        | d. a big problem      |
| 5. she wanted to see               | e. a photo            |
| 6. Upskirting is becoming          | f. photo to a website |
| 7. women in many countries         | g. from being passed  |
| 8. the man uploads the             | h. he objected to it  |
| 9. Mr Chope told her that          | i. it a crime         |
| 10. absolutely                     | j. have complained    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about upskirting?
- What do you think of people who take these photos?
- What should the punishment be for these people?
- What do you think of the politician who blocked the law?
- What advice do you have for the politician?
- What would you do if you saw someone upskirting?
- What should Britain's Prime Minister do about this situation?
- What would you do if people took your photo without asking?

## Spelling

- someone ryclsete takes a photo
- make it a rcmei
- a two-year prison enetnesc
- the government's mattpet to pass the law
- she was doaineippdts
- become a criminal foenfce
- because of daiglit cameras
- the man luoaspd the photo
- started the mpicgana
- he teedbjoc to it
- it wasn't eetbdad
- It's laoyultebs disgusting

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. h
6. j	7. d	8. e	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Prison

You think prison is the best punishment for upskirters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their punishments. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): community service, a huge fine or public shaming.

### Role B – Community Service

You think community service is the best punishment for upskirters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their punishments. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): prison, a huge fine or public shaming.

### Role C – Huge Fine

You think a huge fine is the best punishment for upskirters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their punishments. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): community service, prison or public shaming.

### Role D – Public Shaming

You think public shaming is the best punishment for upskirters. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their punishments. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): community service, a huge fine or prison.

## Speaking – Punishment

Rank these with your partner. Put the best punishments for upskirting at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • barred from Internet      | • 2 years in prison |
| • "I'm an upskirter" tattoo | • community service |
| • counseling                | • public shaming    |
| • drug therapy              | • huge fine         |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.