

W201 The Individual and the State

Questions on assault and general defences

1. Robin Hood meets Little John on a narrow bridge. Neither gives way. Little John holds out his hand to make friends. Robin Hood believing he is to be attacked hits him on the head with his staff. Little John suffers a head wound and is knocked unconscious.

What offence if any has been committed?

2. Big Ears sees two goblins breaking into his house. Big Ears sits on them both while Noddy phones P C Plod. One goblin suffers cuts and bruises . The other suffers a broken arm.

Has Big Ears committed an offence?

3. Bruno and Naseem meet in a pub and quarrel. Outside in the street they agree to a fist fight. They fight for an hour but neither is hurt.

Has either committed an assault?

4. Barney threatens Homer Simpson that he will deprive him of Duff beer for a week if he does not tie up Mo the bartender. Homer ties up Mo.

Has Homer committed an assault?

Would your answer be different if Barney threatened to break Homer's legs when he next saw him?

5. Del Boy and Rodney celebrate by drinking to excess. At midnight Rodney hears a noise outside and believes his flat is being burgled. In fact it is Del Boy returning with more beer. Rodney hits the 'burglar' with a frying pan and Del Boy suffers a cut head.

Has Rodney committed any offence?