

W201 The Individual and the State

Questions on attempts

1. Crippen plans to murder his wife. He buys the poison, places it into her drink and carries the drink into the drawing room. Unknown to Crippen his wife is not in the house having left him permanently earlier that day due to irreconcilable marital differences.

Has an offence of attempted murder been committed?

2. Shearer Junior (age 11) realises that if he kicks his football over the garden fence he is likely to smash his neighbour's greenhouse. Shearer Junior kicks his football over the fence regardless. However the ball deflates unexpectedly and bounces harmlessly off the greenhouse!

Has an offence of attempted criminal damage been committed?

3. Chav believes it is illegal to import alcohol into England. He is stopped driving a white van full of cans of Dutch lager off a channel ferry at Dover. There are no legal restrictions on the importation of alcohol.

Has Chav committed an offence of attempting illegal importation?

4. Chav believes he has bought pure heroin while in Amsterdam. He imports the 'heroin' into England only for it to be discovered at Dover Customs. On analysis the 'heroin' is found to be harmless white powder.

Has Chav committed an offence of attempting illegal importation?