

23 April 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180530

REQUEST

I would like you to provide me with the following information:

- Hate crimes and incidents recorded. For each, the total number and the breakdown by monitored strand (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender, or other classification available) and by offence type (violence against the person, public order offences, criminal damage and arson..., or other classification available), for each month of the calendar years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

- Hate crimes and incidents flagged as online crime recorded. For each, the total number and the breakdown by monitored strand (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender, or other classification available) and by offence type (violence against the person, public order offences, criminal damage and arson..., or other classification available), for each month of the calendar years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

- In the cases classified as religious hate crime, the breakdown by the perceived (by the offender) religion (or belief or faith) of the victim.

- The date since when the online crime flag is being used by this police force.

CLARIFICATION

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Systems Analyst for assistance with your request. She conducted a search of our two crime management systems: (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017) and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from this date onwards. Due to difficulties with the way in which the data is extracted, data from our new CONNECT system is currently presented separately.

Each of these systems record complaints or allegations of those matters which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes' and using the criteria above our Crime Analyst has provided the enclosed data and the following explanation:

CMS(ii) data

Offence count – I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2015 and 04-Dec-2017 where the offence was recorded with a Hate Aggravating factor, broken down by the Month, Year and offence recorded.

Aggravating factor count - Of the offence count, I have provided a count of Aggravating factors, broken down by month and year recorded – please note we expect a count of aggravating factors to exceed a count offences as more than one can be recorded on any offence.

Religion – Of the count of offences recorded with the Aggravating factor religion – I have provided a breakdown of the Victims religion if recorded and a count of the Perceived Religion – Prior to April 2016, CMS (ii) did not have mandatory markers to identify perceived religion. However, we did use the Aggravating Factor of Religion to identify such offences in accordance with the Home Office definition therefore I can only provide data from April 2016.

As of April 2016 CMS(ii) recorded the following Aggravating factors –

*PERCEIVED RELIGION - CHRISTIAN
PERCEIVED RELIGION - BUDDHISM
PERCEIVED RELIGION - HINDU
PERCEIVED RELIGION - JEWISH
PERCEIVED RELIGION - MUSLIM
PERCEIVED RELIGION - SIKH
PERCEIVED RELIGION - OTHER
PERCEIVED RELIGION - NO RELIGION*

Cyber Flag -

Of the offence count, I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime with the Cyber crime flag, broken down by the Month, Year and offence recorded. Cyber Crime flag was only introduced as a mandatory field within CMS(ii) from the 1st April 2014.

CONNECT (1 Sheet)

I have provided the same data as above but extracted from CONNECT where the offence was recorded between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2017.

We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii).

SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.